



# TALES OF VISHNU

THE GENTLE GOD

Vol 512





# GAJENDRA



INDRADYUMNA, THE PANDYAN KING, WAS FAMED FOR HIS VIRTUE.

ONE DAY, HE CALLED A MEETING OF HIS COUNSELLORS.

I HAVE DECIDED TO RETIRE TO THE FOREST AND DEVOTE ALL MY TIME TO THE WORSHIP OF THE LORD.

BUT, YOUR MAJESTY... THE KINGDOM...



DON'T TRY TO STOP ME. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU CAN AND WILL TAKE CARE OF THE KINGDOM.

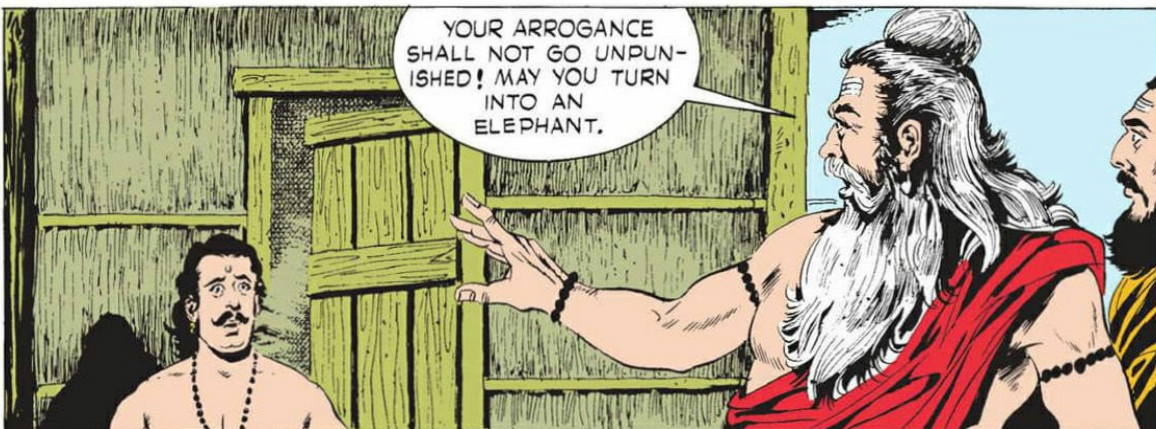
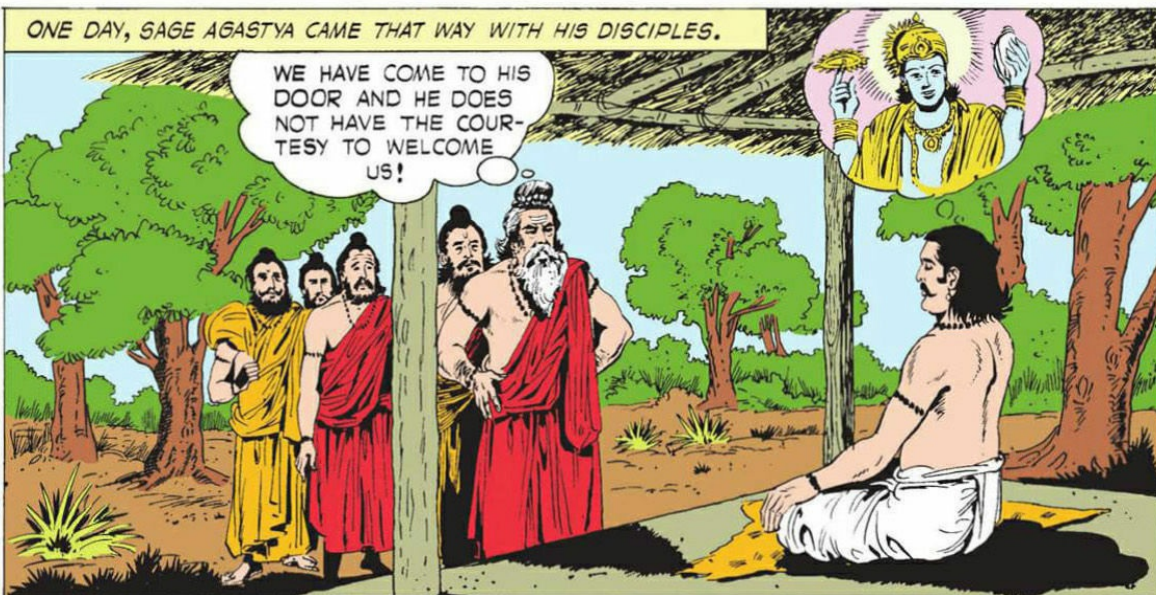




INDRADYUMNA THEN RETIRED TO THE KULACHALA MOUNTAINS WHERE HE BUILT A COTTAGE FOR HIMSELF, OBSERVING THE VOW OF SILENCE, HE SAT WITH HIS MIND DWELLING UPON LORD VISHNU.



ONE DAY, SAGE AGASTYA CAME THAT WAY WITH HIS DISCIPLES.



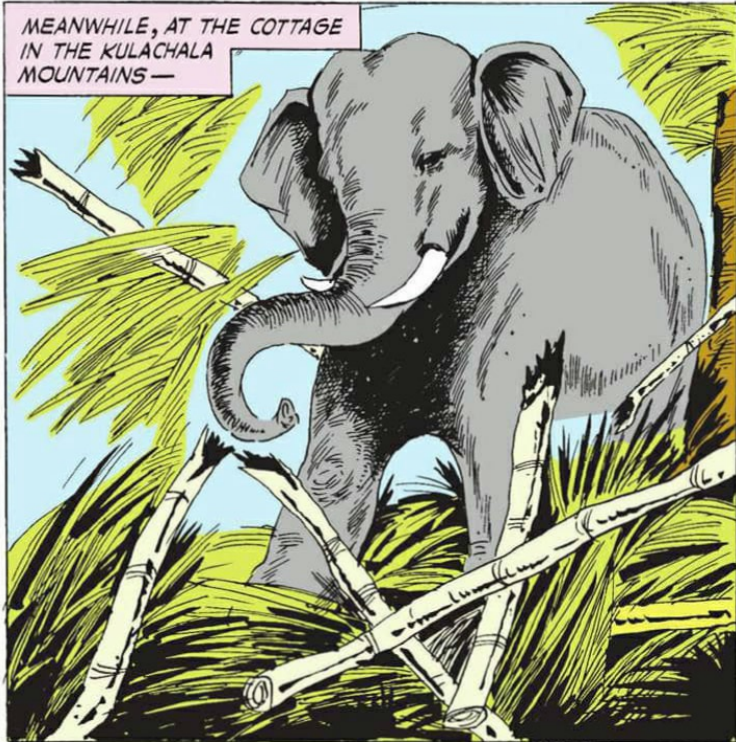


IN HIS CELESTIAL ABODE, LORD VISHNU SMILED WHEN HE HEARD THE CURSE OF AGASTYA.

AGASTYA, YOU HAVE  
UNKNOWNLY DONE  
MY DEVOTEE A  
GREAT SERVICE!

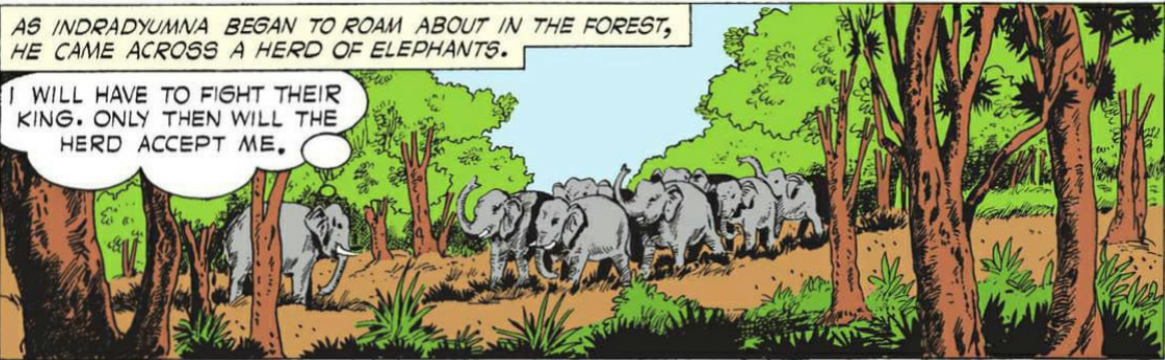


MEANWHILE, AT THE COTTAGE  
IN THE KULACHALA  
MOUNTAINS —



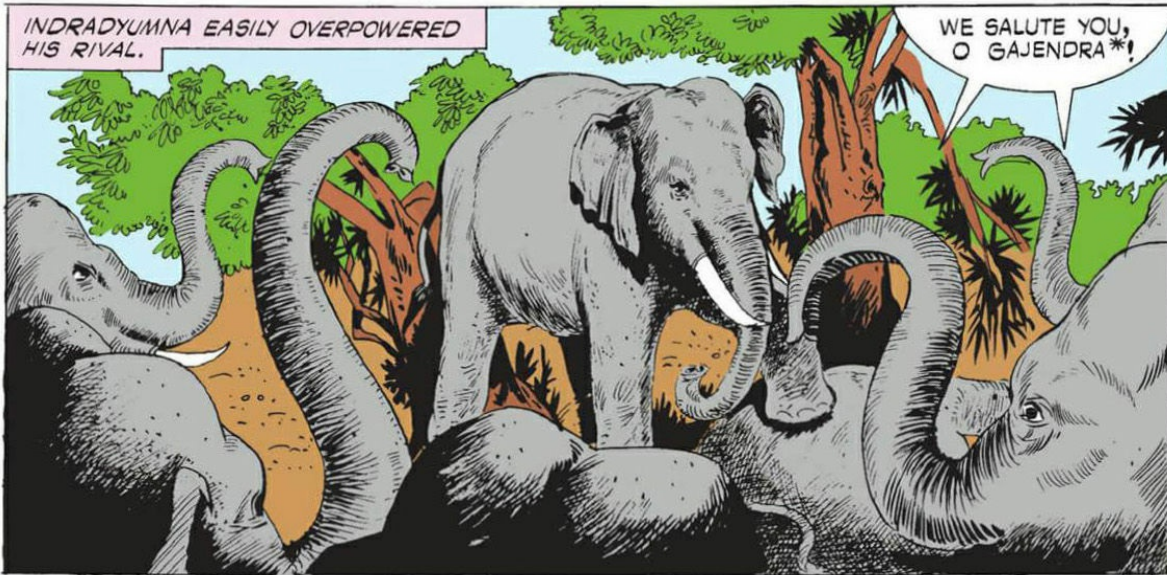
AS INDRADYUMNA BEGAN TO ROAM ABOUT IN THE FOREST,  
HE CAME ACROSS A HERD OF ELEPHANTS.

I WILL HAVE TO FIGHT THEIR  
KING. ONLY THEN WILL THE  
HERD ACCEPT ME.





INDRADYUMNA EASILY OVERPOWERED  
HIS RIVAL.



WE SALUTE YOU,  
O GAJENDRA\*!

ONE DAY —

LET US  
GO TO THE TRIKUTA  
MOUNTAIN. IT'S A  
BETTER PLACE THAN  
THIS.

WE'LL FOLLOW  
YOU TO THE END OF THE  
EARTH, O GAJENDRA.



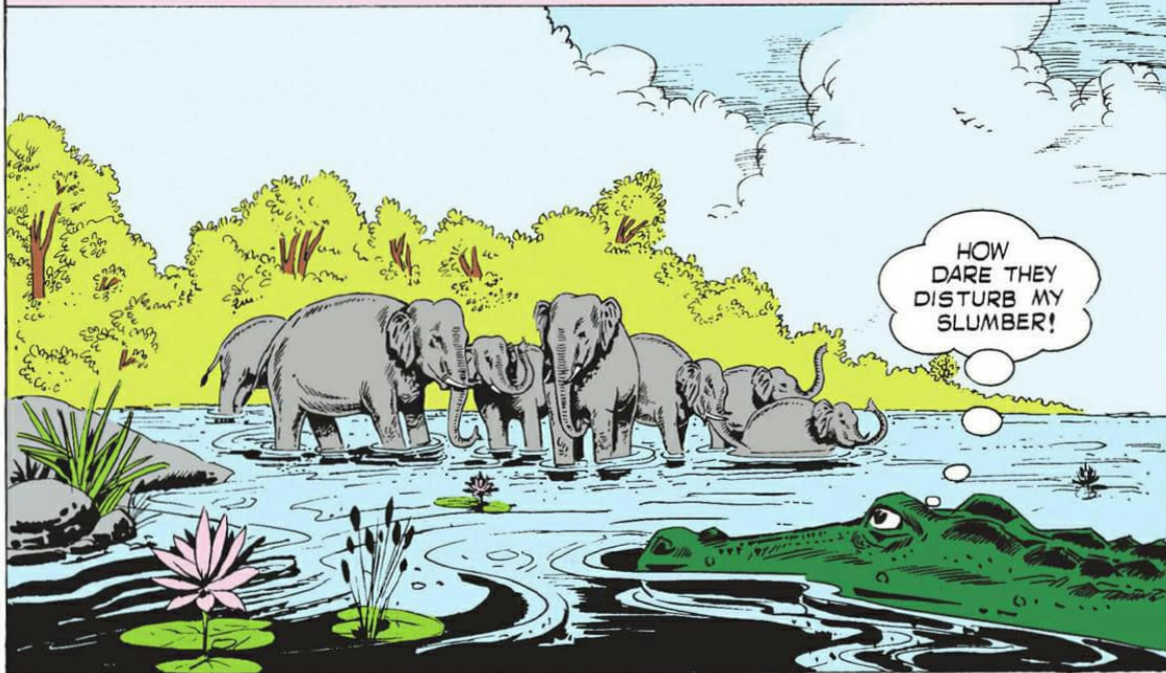
LED BY GAJENDRA, THE HERD TOOK THE TRIKUTA FOREST BY STORM.



\* KING ELEPHANT

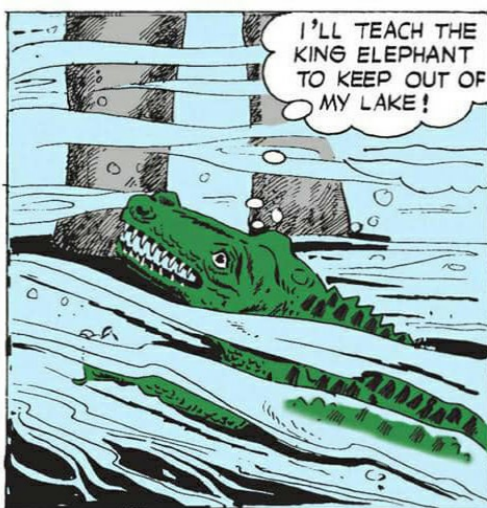


THE ELEPHANTS THEN ENTERED A LAKE, WHICH WAS THE ABODE OF A CROCODILE.



HOW  
DARE THEY  
DISTURB MY  
SLUMBER!

THE FURIOUS CROCODILE BEGAN TO SWIM TOWARDS GAJENDRA.



I'LL TEACH THE  
KING ELEPHANT  
TO KEEP OUT OF  
MY LAKE!

MEANWHILE, AFTER THE REFRESHING BATH, AS THE  
ELEPHANTS BEGAN  
TO MOVE ON—

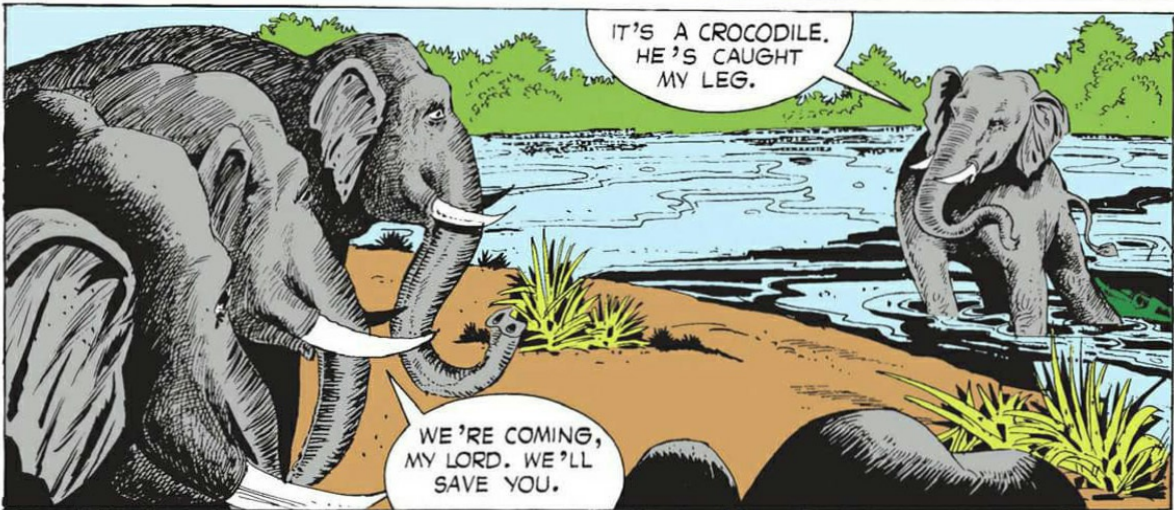


MY LEG! IT'S  
CAUGHT IN A  
TRAP...

IT'S A  
CROCODILE!



TRUMPETING LOUDLY, HE TRIED TO SHAKE OFF THE CROCODILE.

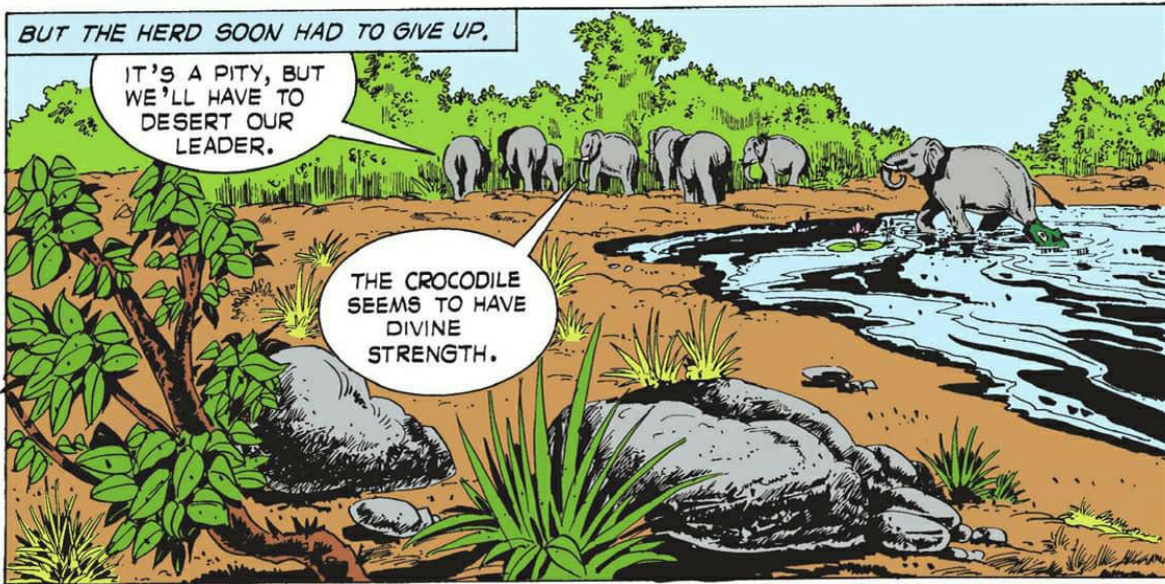




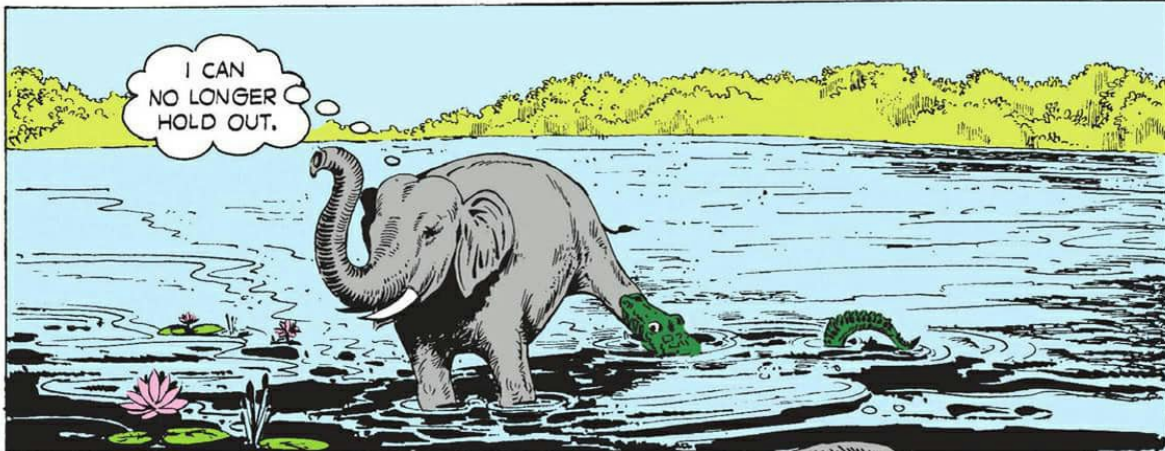
BUT THE HERD SOON HAD TO GIVE UP.

IT'S A PITY, BUT  
WE'LL HAVE TO  
DESERT OUR  
LEADER.

THE CROCODILE  
SEEMS TO HAVE  
DIVINE  
STRENGTH.

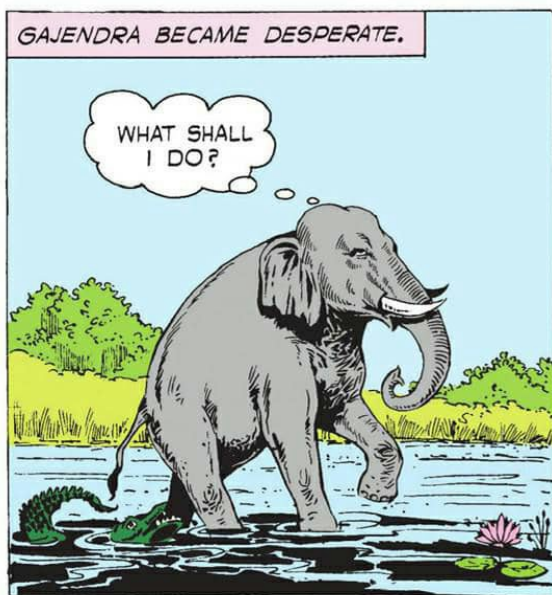


I CAN  
NO LONGER  
HOLD OUT.

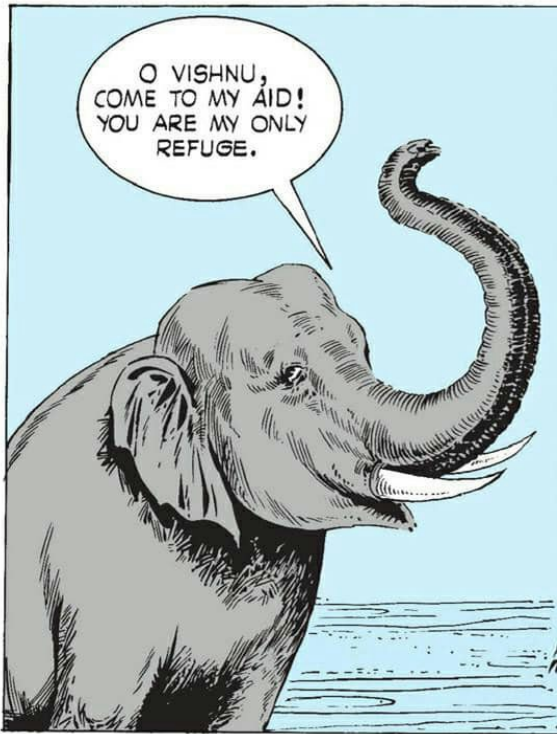


GAJENDRA BECAME DESPERATE.

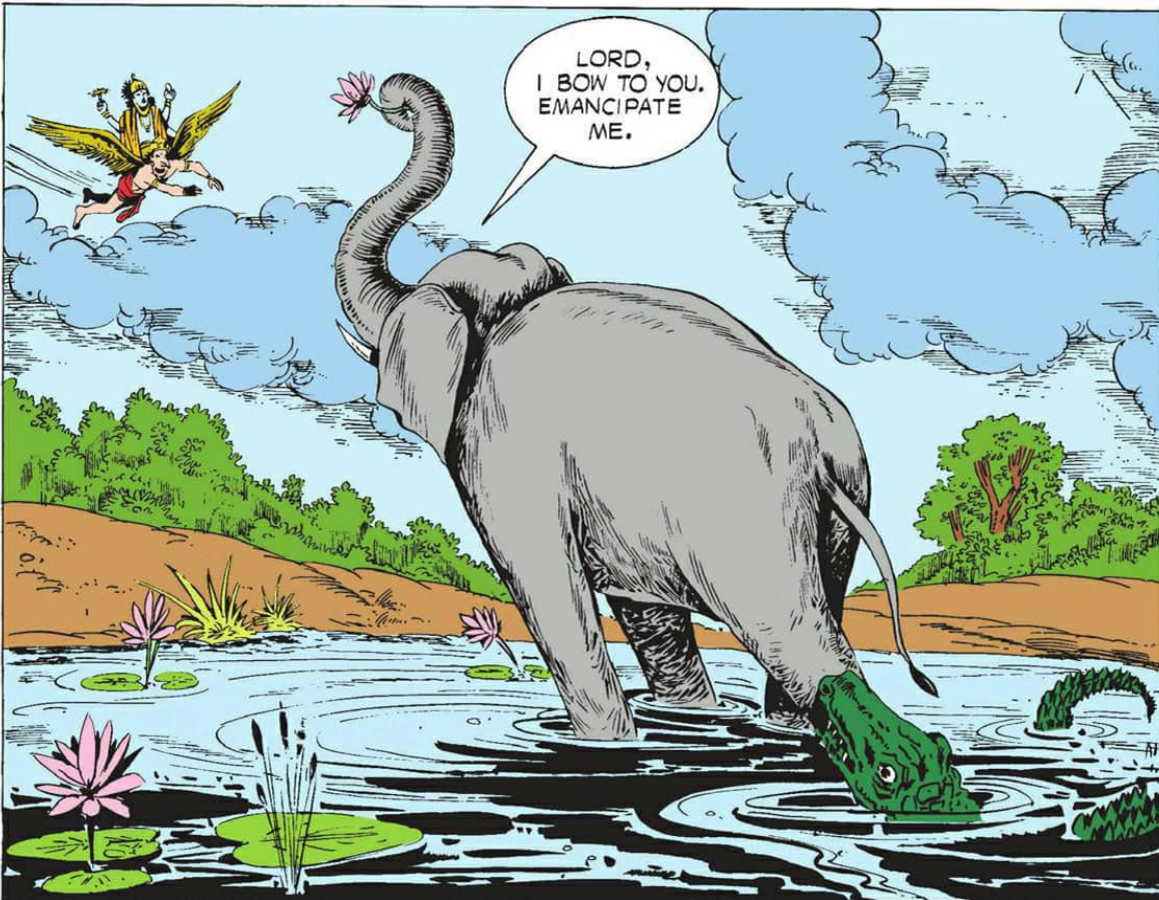
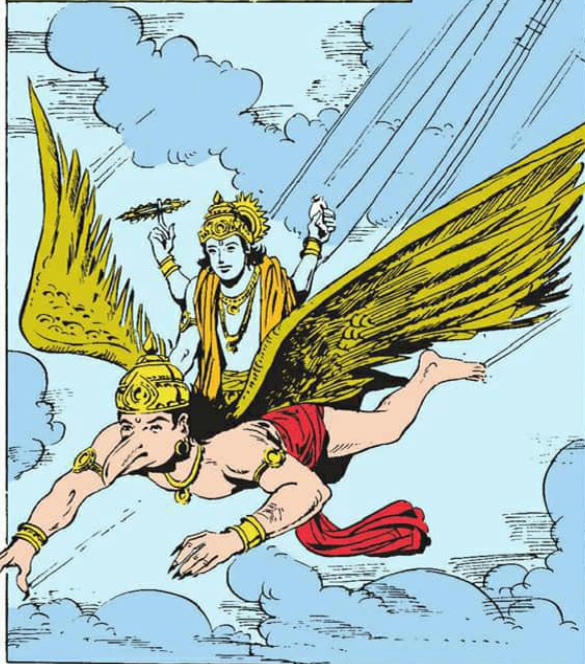
WHAT SHALL  
I DO?



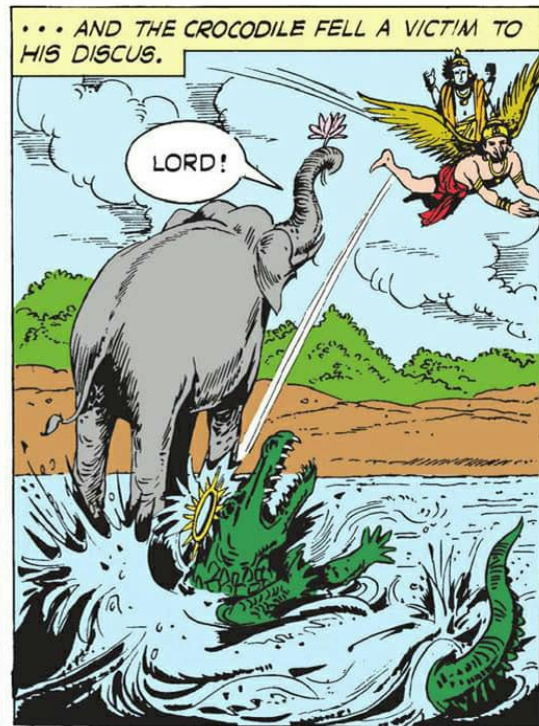
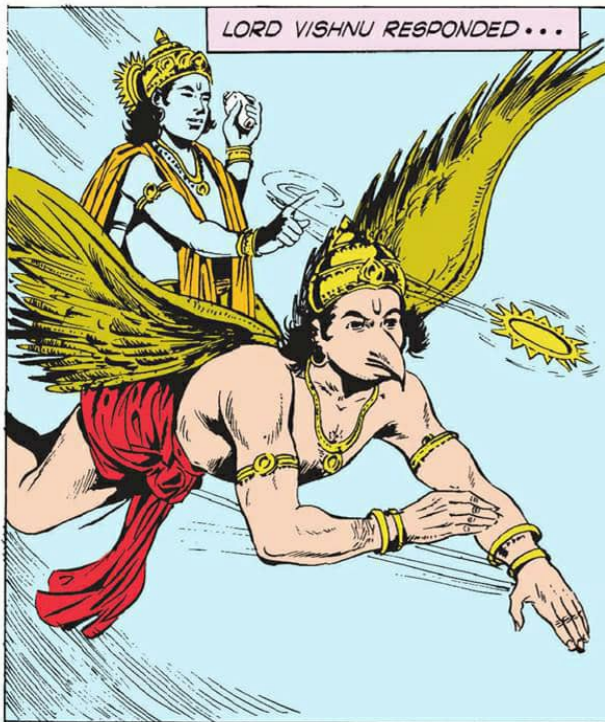




VISHNU HEARD THE PRAYER. MOUNTING GARUDA,  
HE LEFT HIS ABODE, VAIKUNTHA.

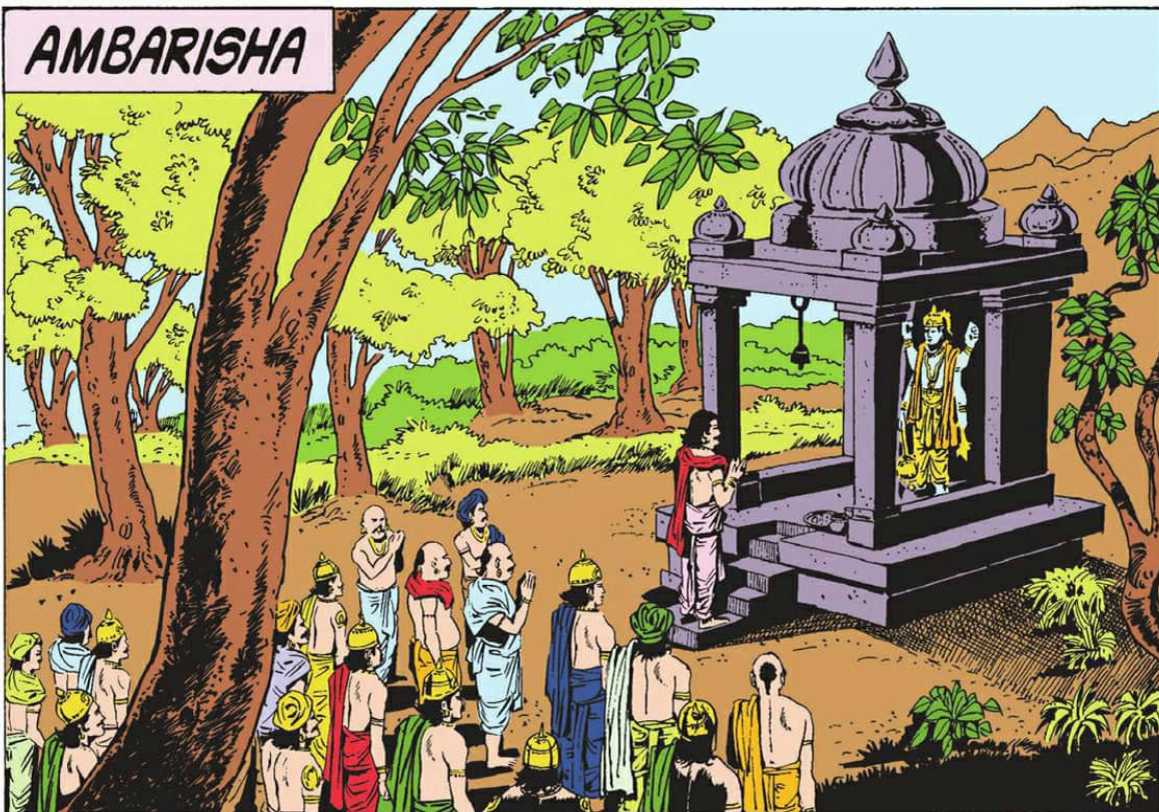






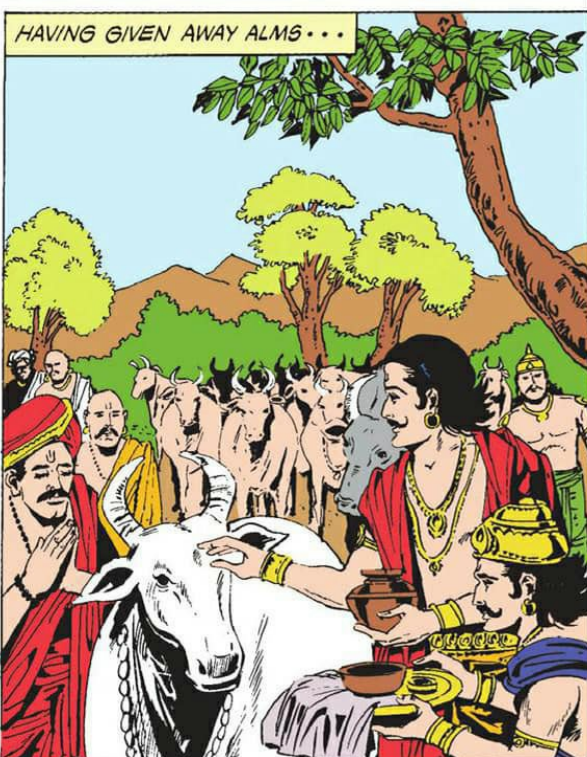


# AMBARISHA

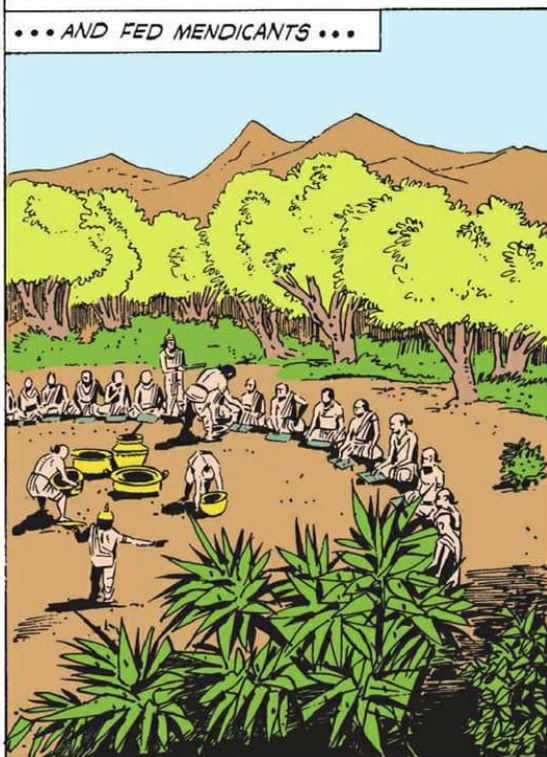


AFTER FASTING FOR THREE DAYS, KING AMBARISHA WORSHIPPED LORD VISHNU IN THE FOREST OF MADHUVANA\*. HE WAS TO BREAK HIS FAST ON THE AUSPICIOUS DAY OF DWADASHI.†

HAVING GIVEN AWAY ALMS...



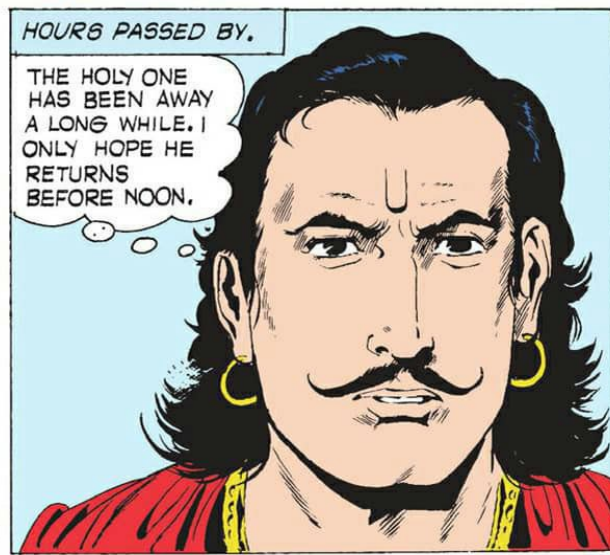
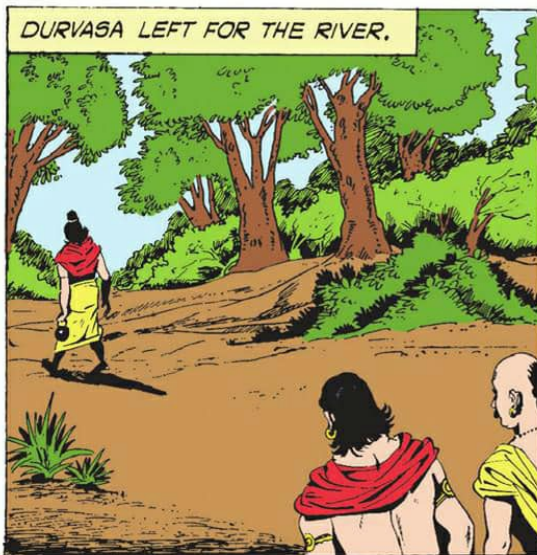
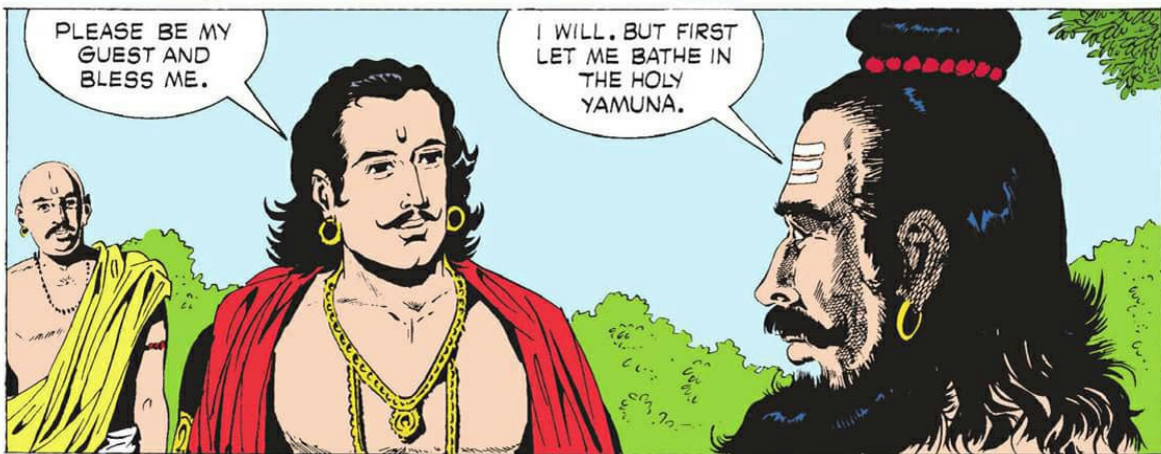
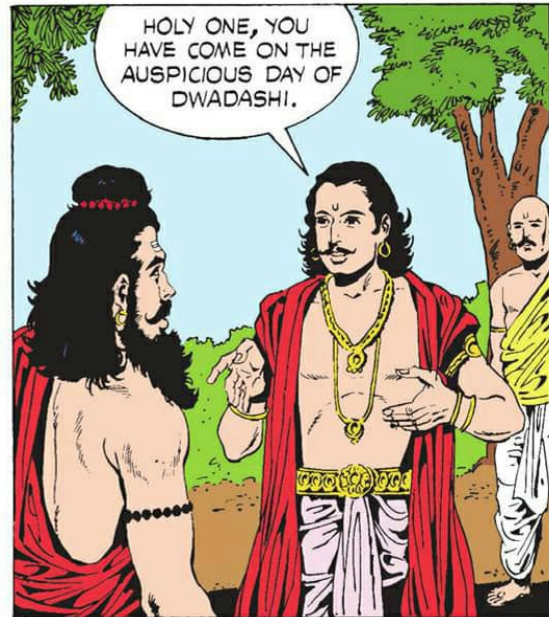
...AND FED MENDICANTS...



\* THE FOREST REGION AROUND MATHURA † THE TWELFTH DAY OF THE FORTNIGHT

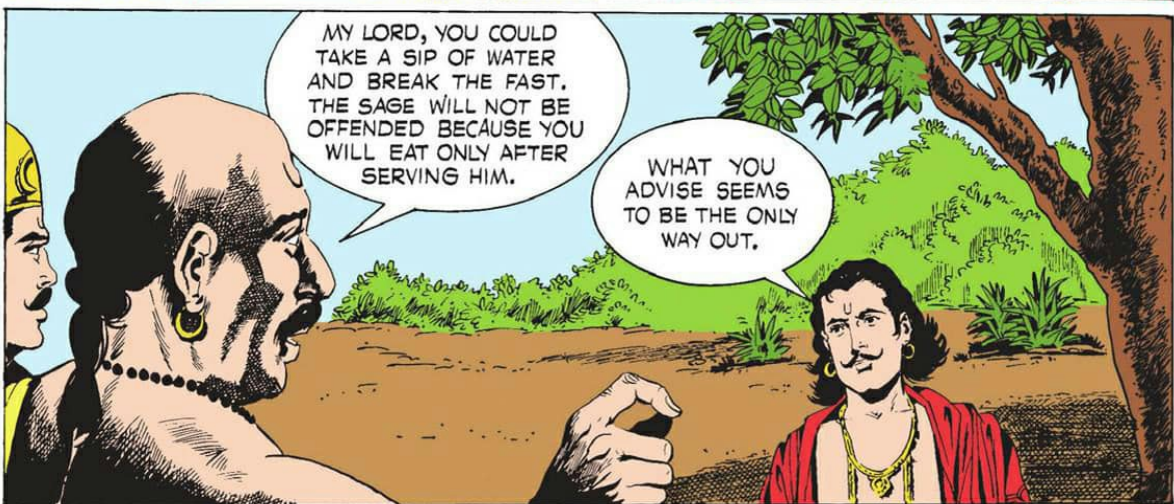
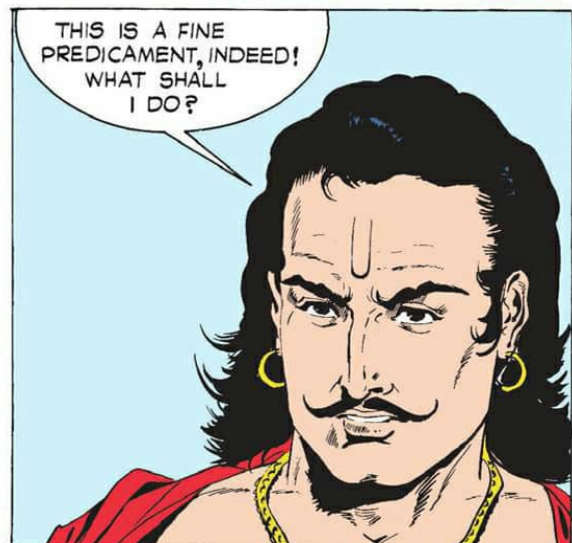
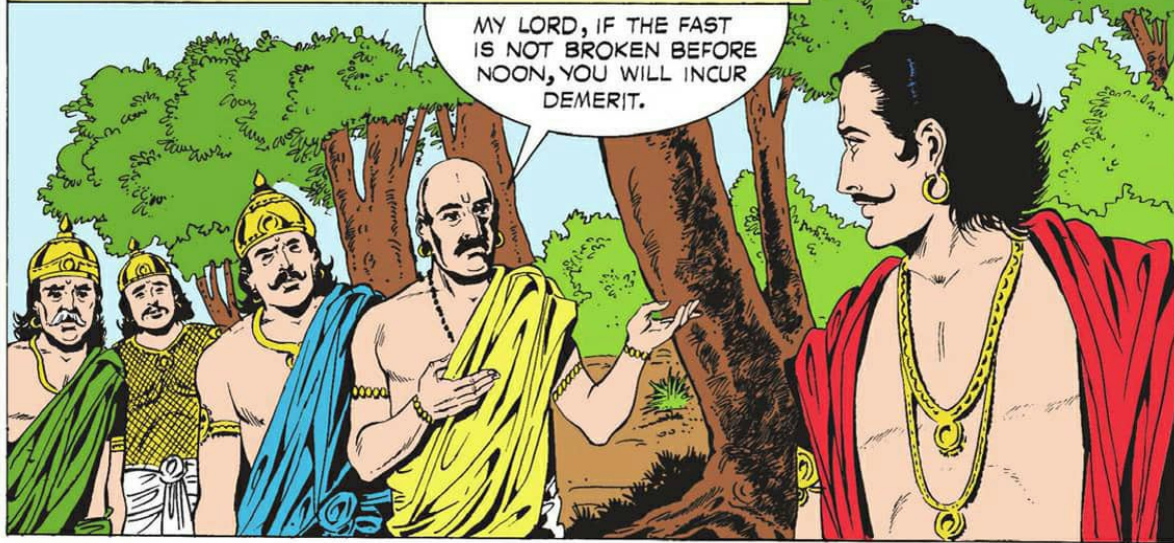


... HE HIMSELF WAS ABOUT TO BREAK HIS FAST WHEN SAGE DURVASA CAME BY.



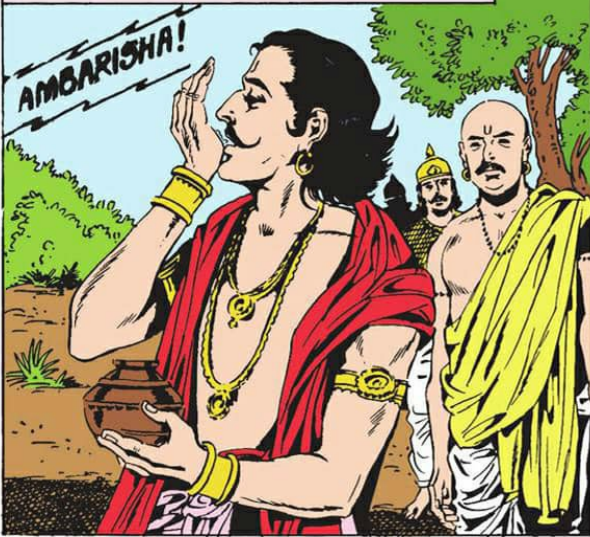


THE LEARNED MEN WHO HAD ASSEMBLED THERE, WERE WORRIED.

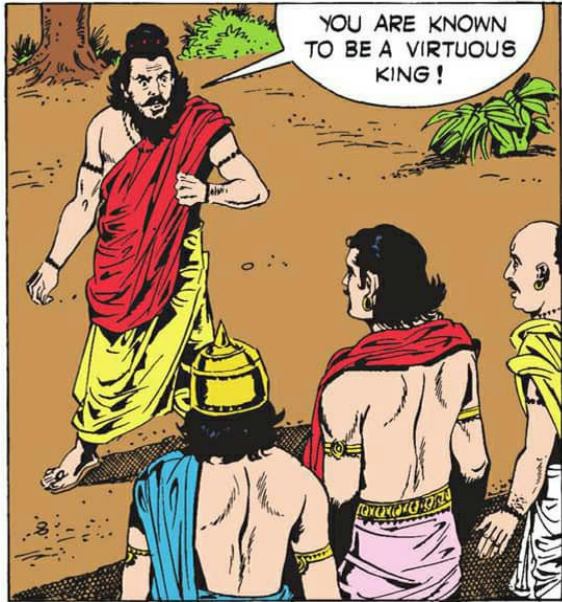




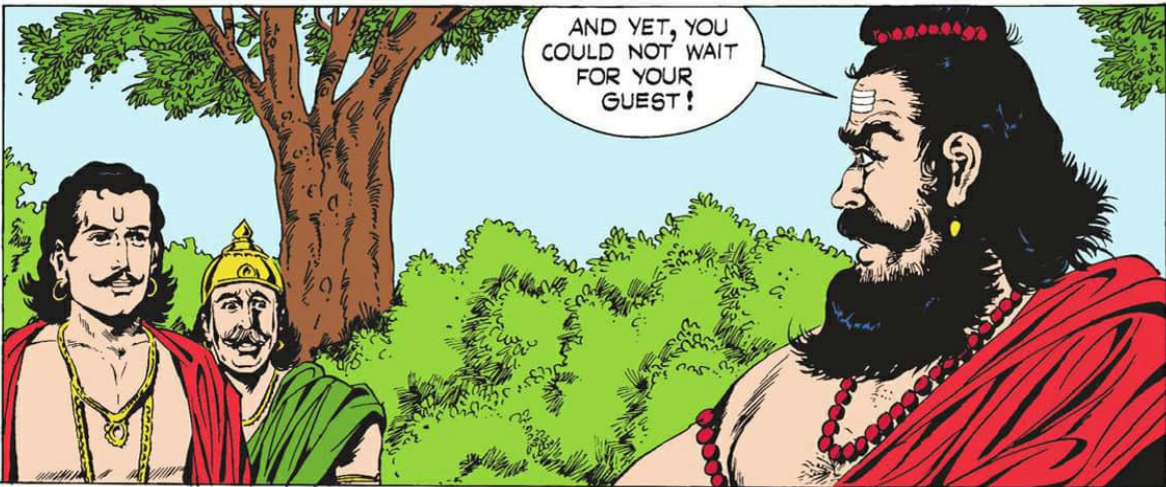
AS AMBARISHA POURED A LITTLE WATER INTO HIS PALM AND RAISED IT TO HIS LIPS —



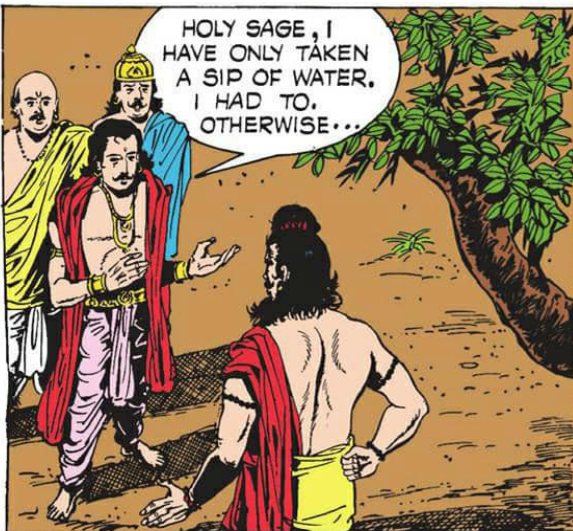
YOU ARE KNOWN TO BE A VIRTUOUS KING!



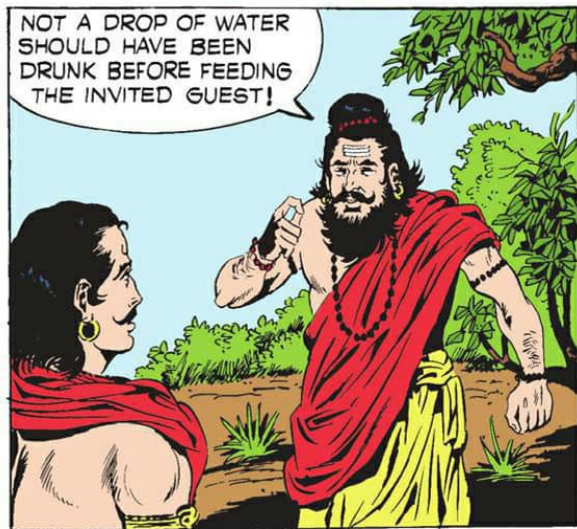
AND YET, YOU COULD NOT WAIT FOR YOUR GUEST!



HOLY SAGE, I HAVE ONLY TAKEN A SIP OF WATER. I HAD TO. OTHERWISE...



NOT A DROP OF WATER SHOULD HAVE BEEN DRUNK BEFORE FEEDING THE INVITED GUEST!





THE COURTIERERS WERE AGHAST.

ISN'T THE SAGE  
AWARE OF THE CONDI-  
TIONS LAID DOWN FOR  
THE BREAKING OF  
THIS FAST?

WHY DID HE  
KEEP OUR KING  
WAITING?

DON'T WORRY.  
I THINK HE WILL  
SOON GET OVER  
HIS FIT OF RAGE.

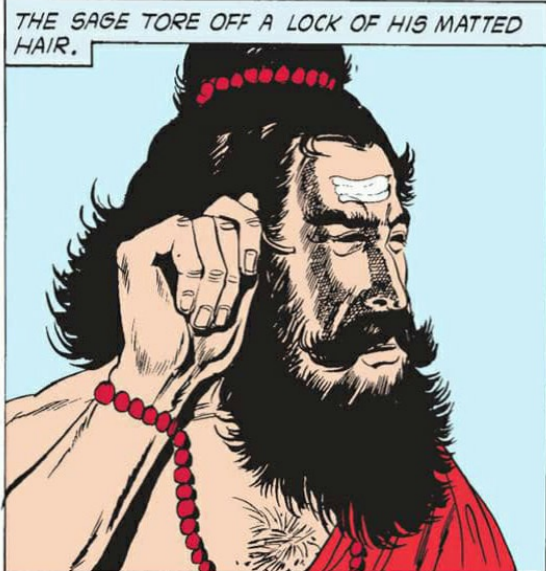


BUT THE COURTIER WAS IN FOR A SHOCK. THE NEXT MOMENT—

YOU SHALL PAY FOR  
YOUR ARROGANCE,  
AMBARISHA!



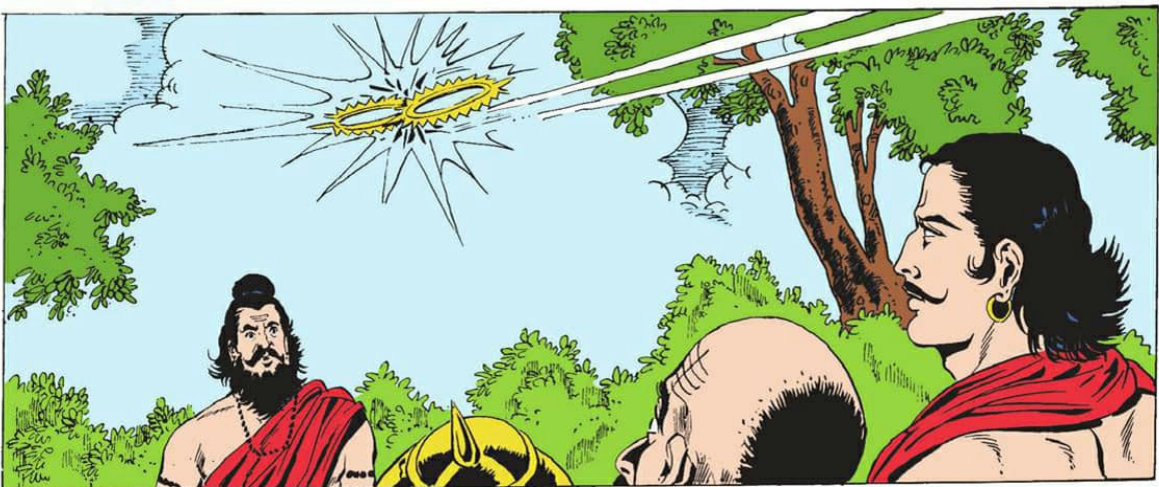
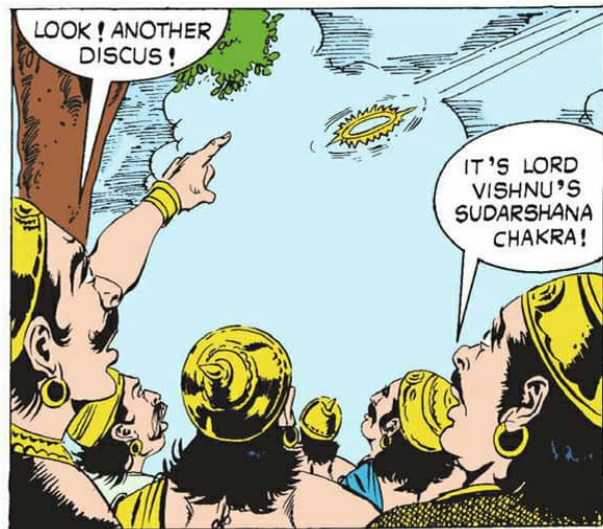
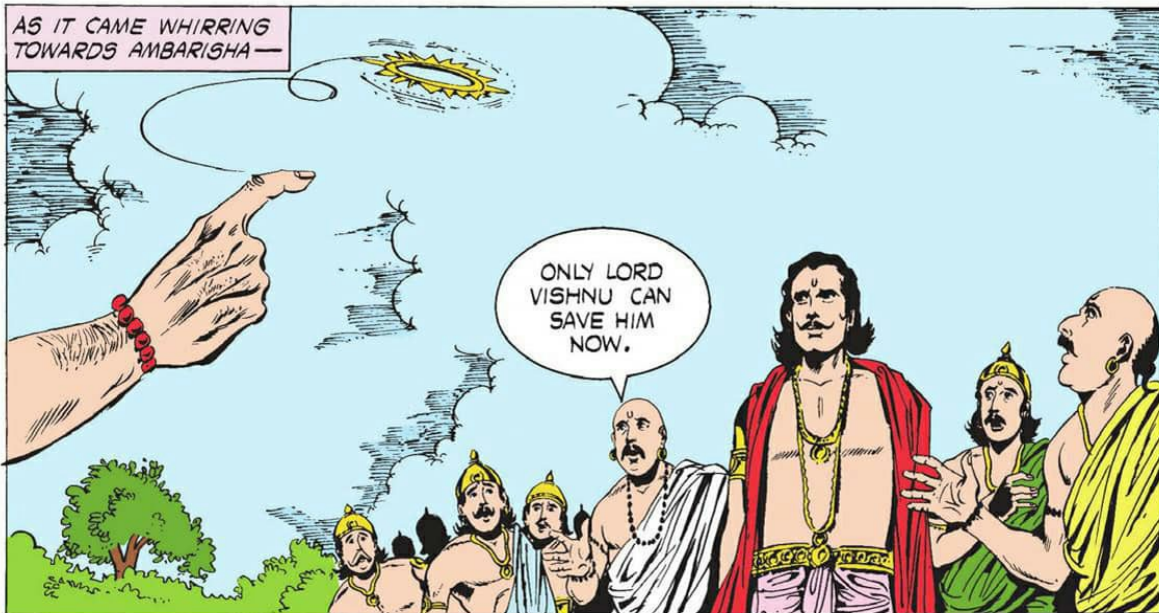
THE SAGE TORE OFF A LOCK OF HIS MATTED  
HAIR.



AND LO! IT TURNED INTO A  
DISCUS.

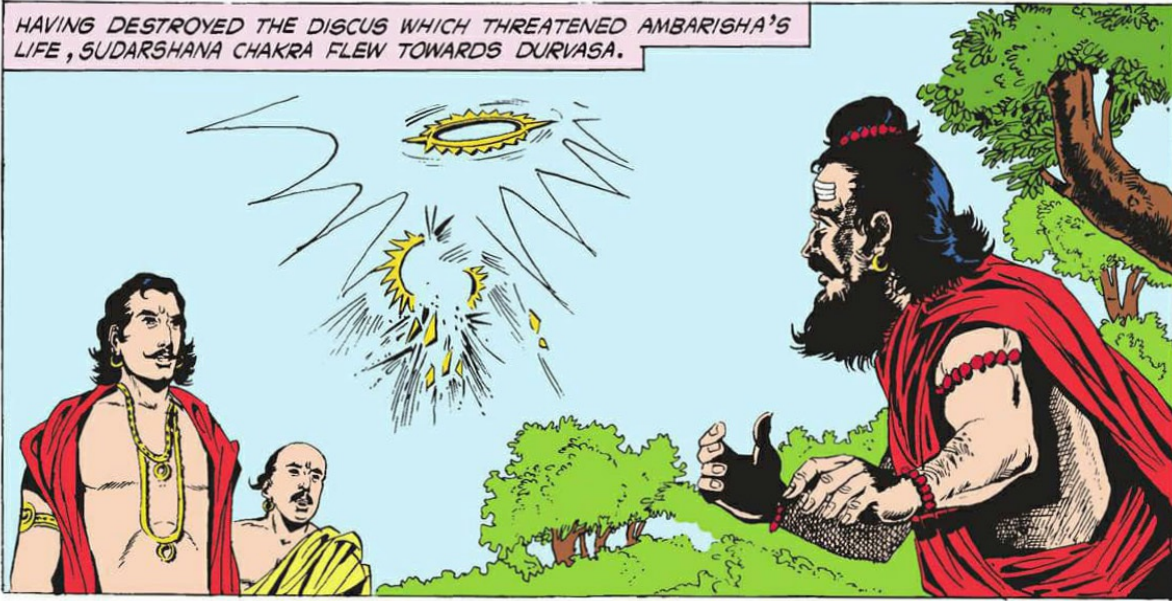








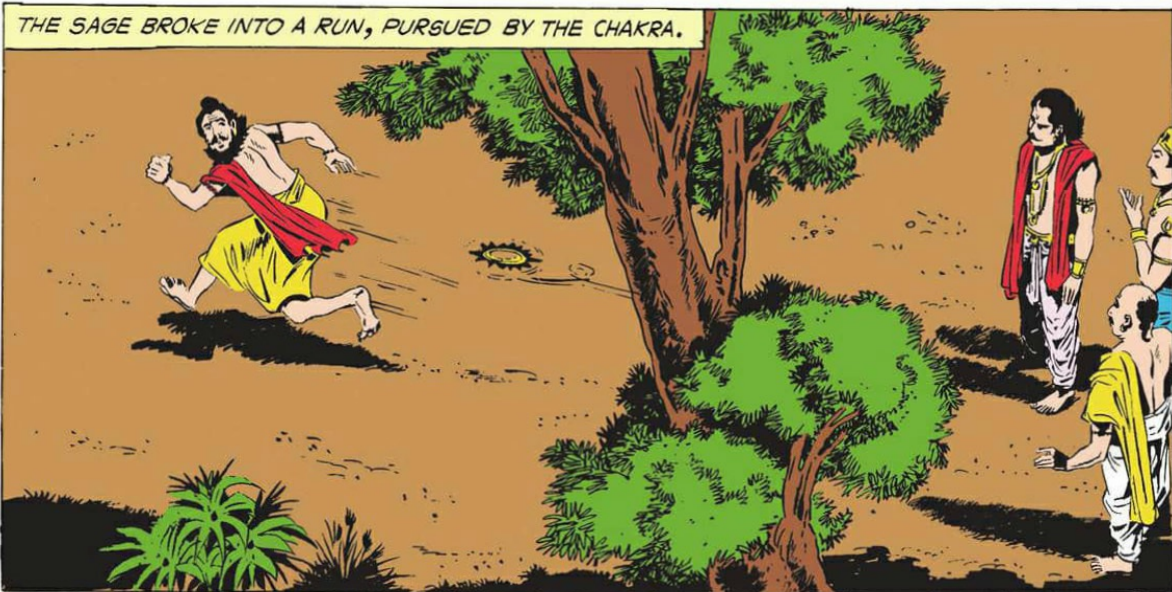
HAVING DESTROYED THE DISCUS WHICH THREATENED AMBARISHA'S LIFE, SUDARSHANA CHAKRA FLEW TOWARDS DURVASA.



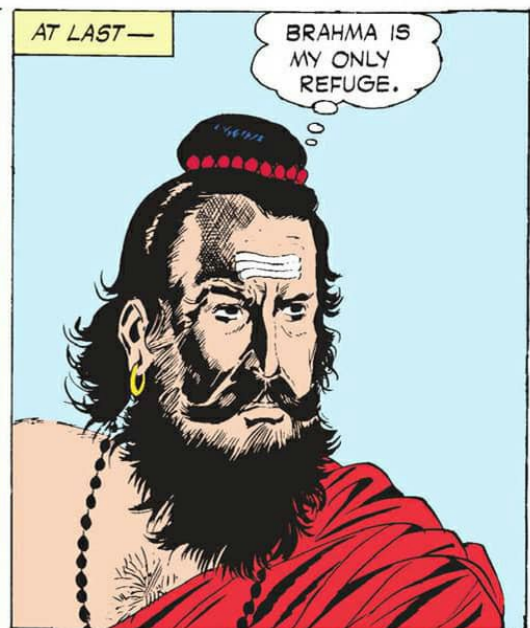
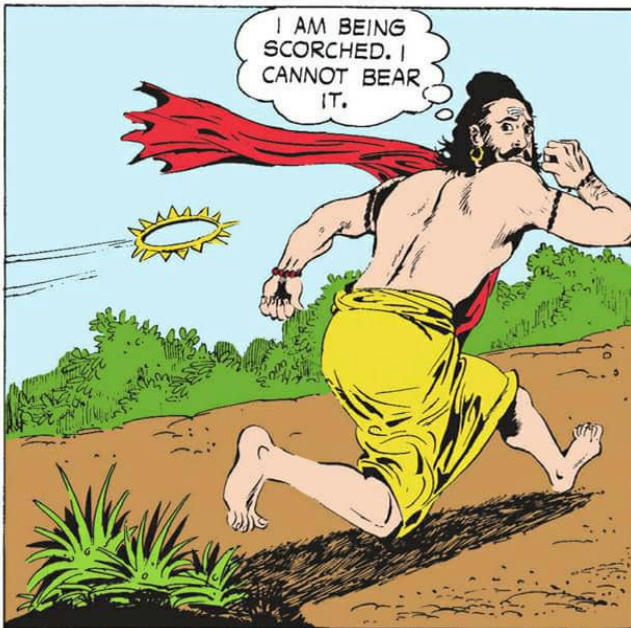
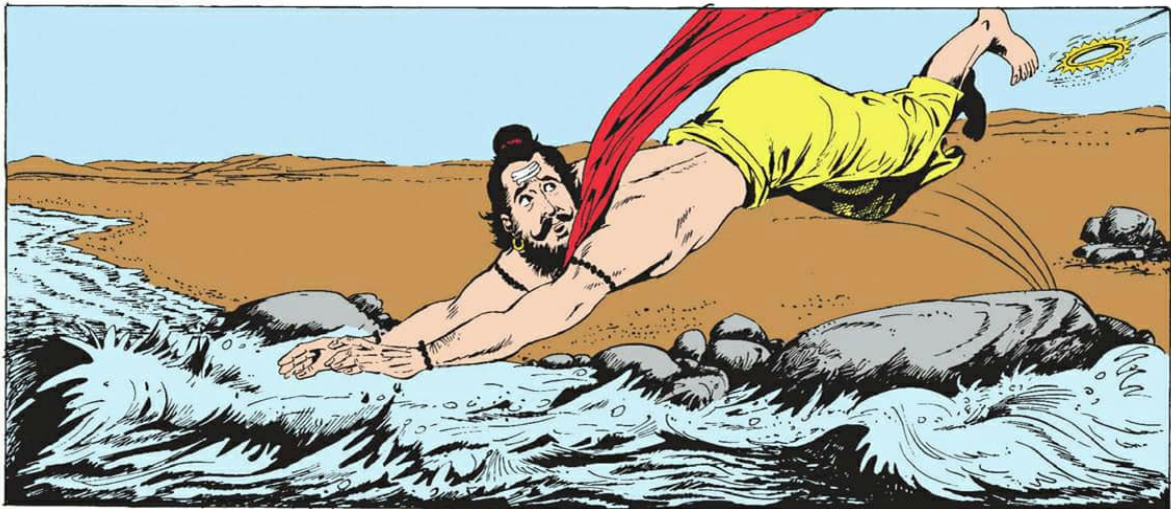
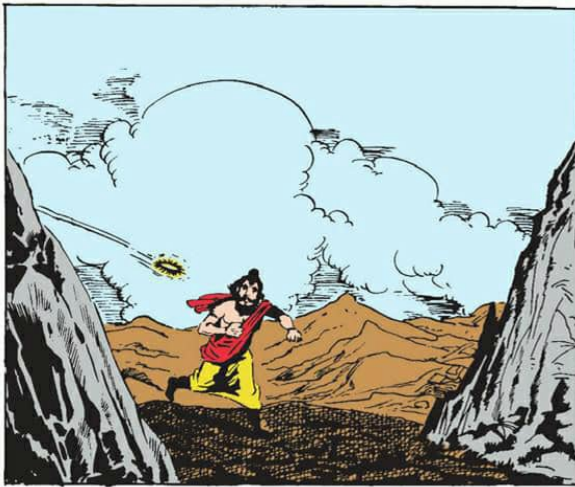
IT'S HEADING  
FOR ME!



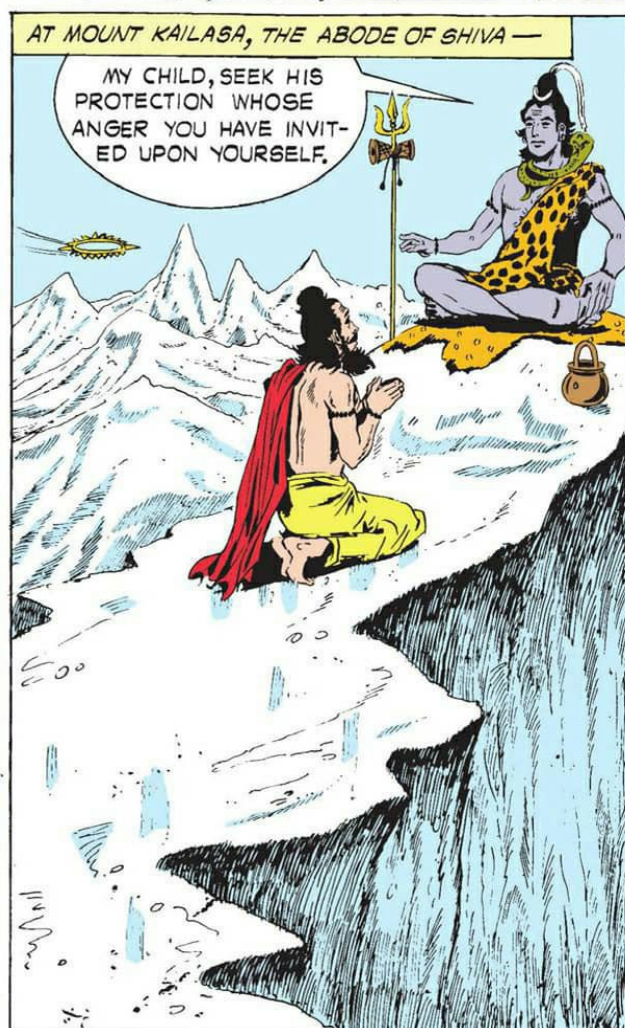
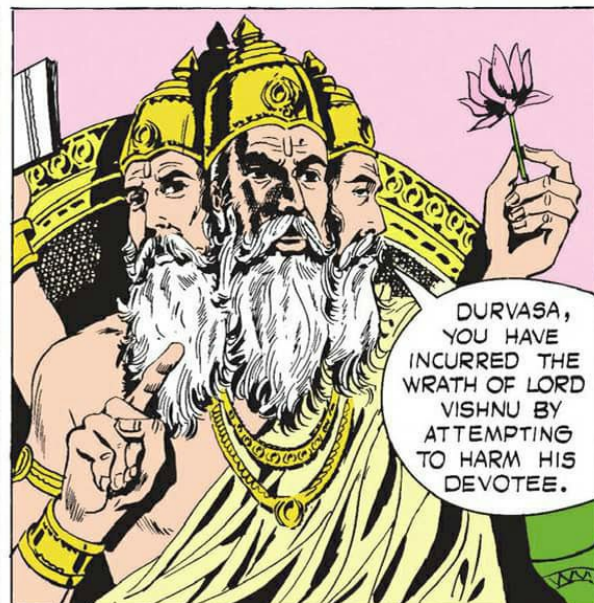
THE SAGE BROKE INTO A RUN, PURSUED BY THE CHAKRA.













DURVASA RUSHED TO LORD VISHNU.

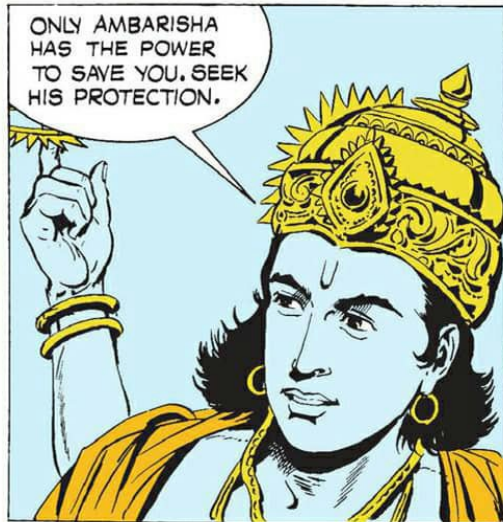
O LORD! I HAVE  
OFFENDED YOUR  
DEVOTEE. PARDON  
ME! PROTECT  
ME!



O SAGE, HE WHO  
EMPLOYS HIS POWER  
TO INJURE THE VIRTU-  
OUS, INVITES EVIL  
UPON HIMSELF.

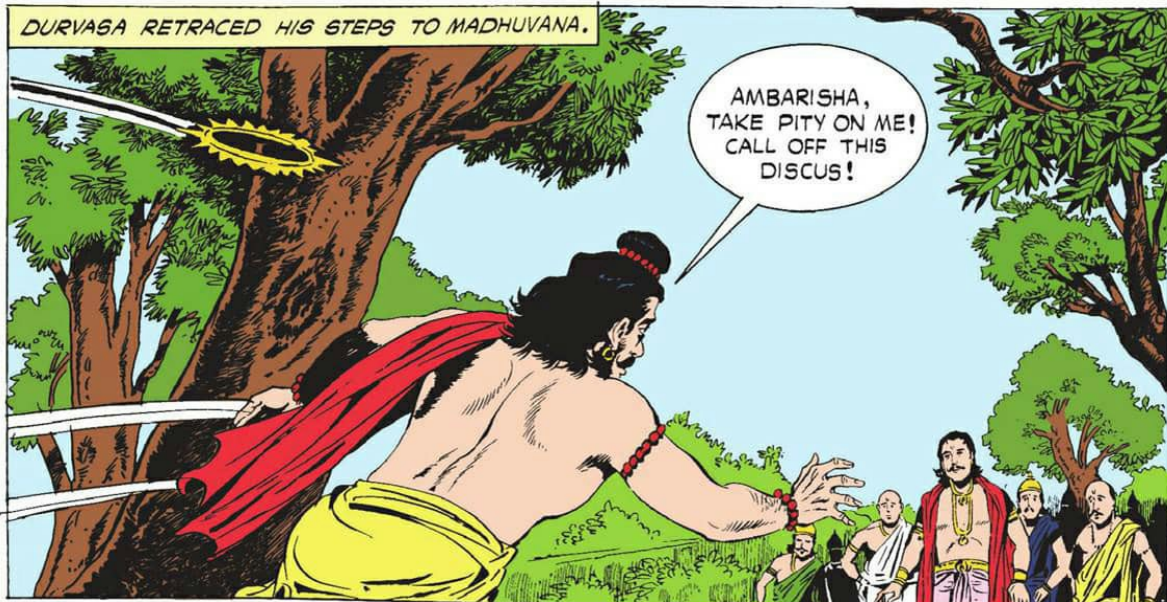


ONLY AMBARISHA  
HAS THE POWER  
TO SAVE YOU. SEEK  
HIS PROTECTION.



DURVASA RETRACED HIS STEPS TO MADHUVANA.

AMBARISHA,  
TAKE PITY ON ME!  
CALL OFF THIS  
DISCUS!



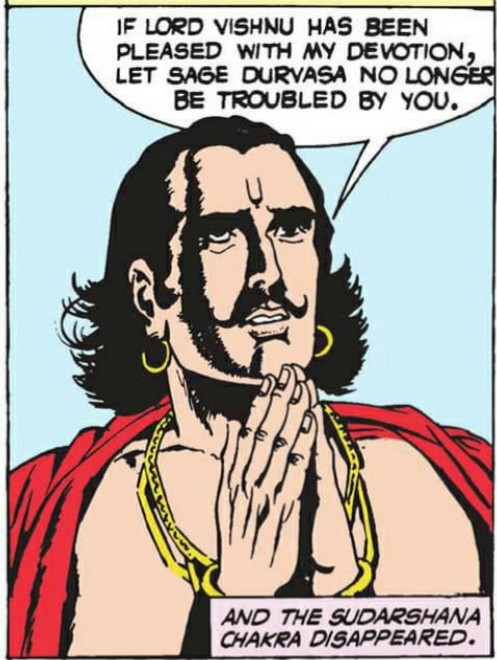


AMBARISHA WAS MOVED BY DURVASA'S FLIGHT.



HAS THE GREAT SAGE BEEN REDUCED TO SUCH A PATHETIC STATE?

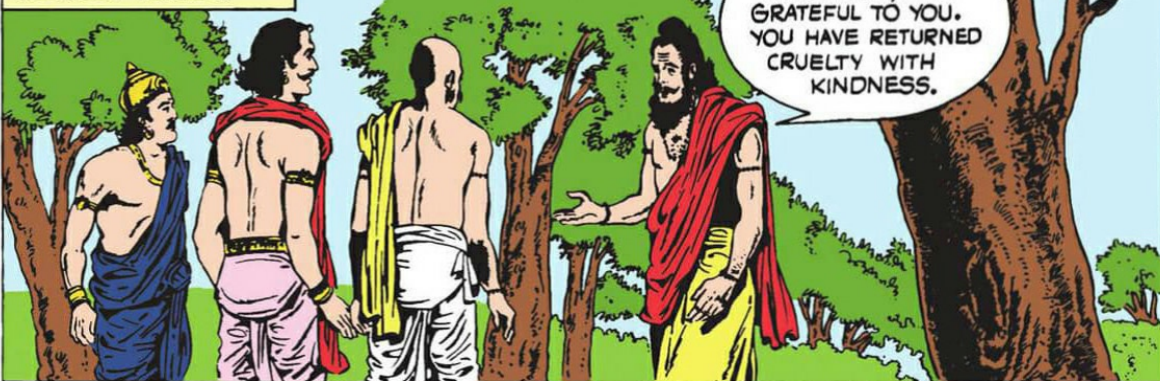
HE APPEALED TO SUDARSHANA CHAKRA.



IF LORD VISHNU HAS BEEN PLEASED WITH MY DEVOTION, LET SAGE DURVASA NO LONGER BE TROUBLED BY YOU.

AND THE SUDARSHANA CHAKRA DISAPPEARED.

THE NEXT MOMENT —



AMBARISHA, I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU. YOU HAVE RETURNED CRUELTY WITH KINDNESS.

THE DISCUS OF VISHNU WHICH COULD NOT BE CONTROLLED BY EITHER SHIVA OR BRAHMA, RESPECTS YOUR WORDS. WHAT IS THE SECRET OF YOUR POWER?

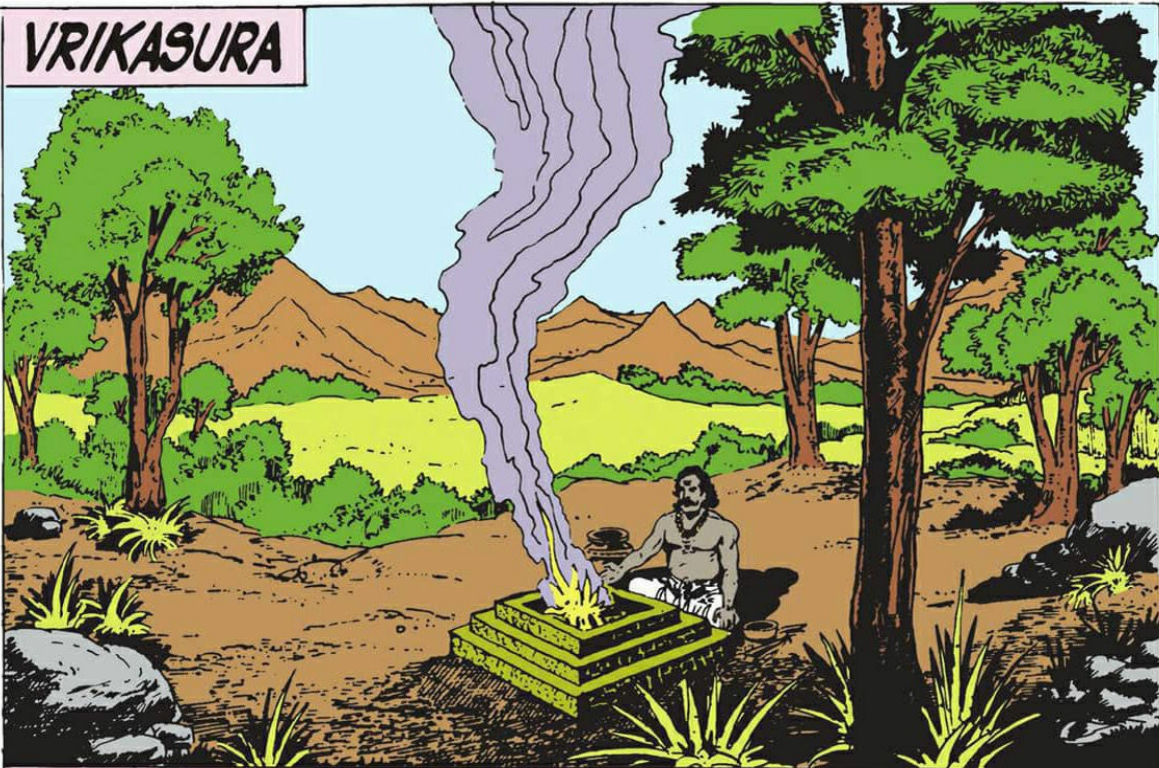


THE LOVE OF LORD VISHNU.

THUS DID VISHNU DEMONSTRATE HIS LOVE FOR HIS DEVOTEES.

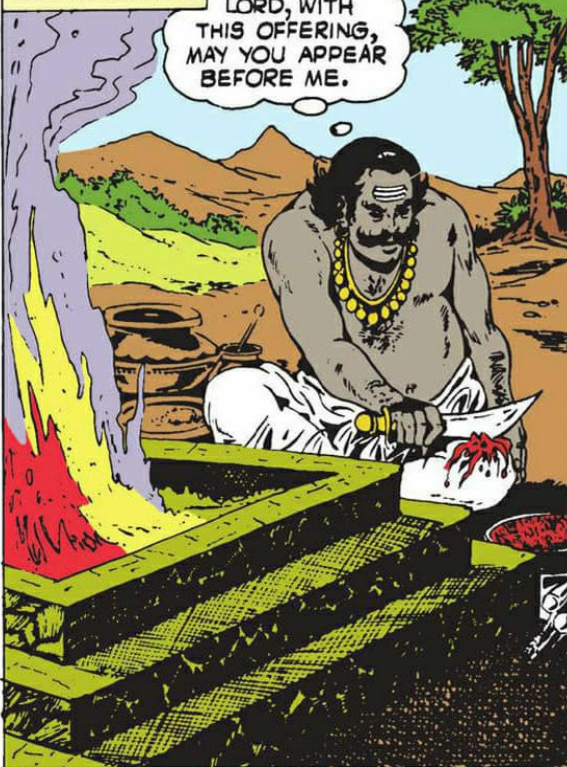


# VRIKASURA



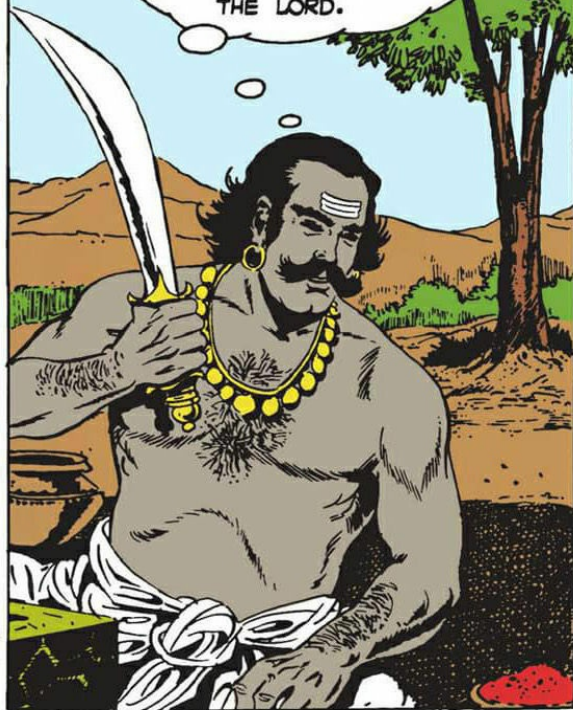
THE FOOLISH BUT MIGHTY ASURA, VRIKA, ONCE DECIDED TO PROPITIATE LORD SHIVA.

HE CUT OFF HIS FLESH AND OFFERED IT TO THE LORD.



LORD, WITH THIS OFFERING, MAY YOU APPEAR BEFORE ME.

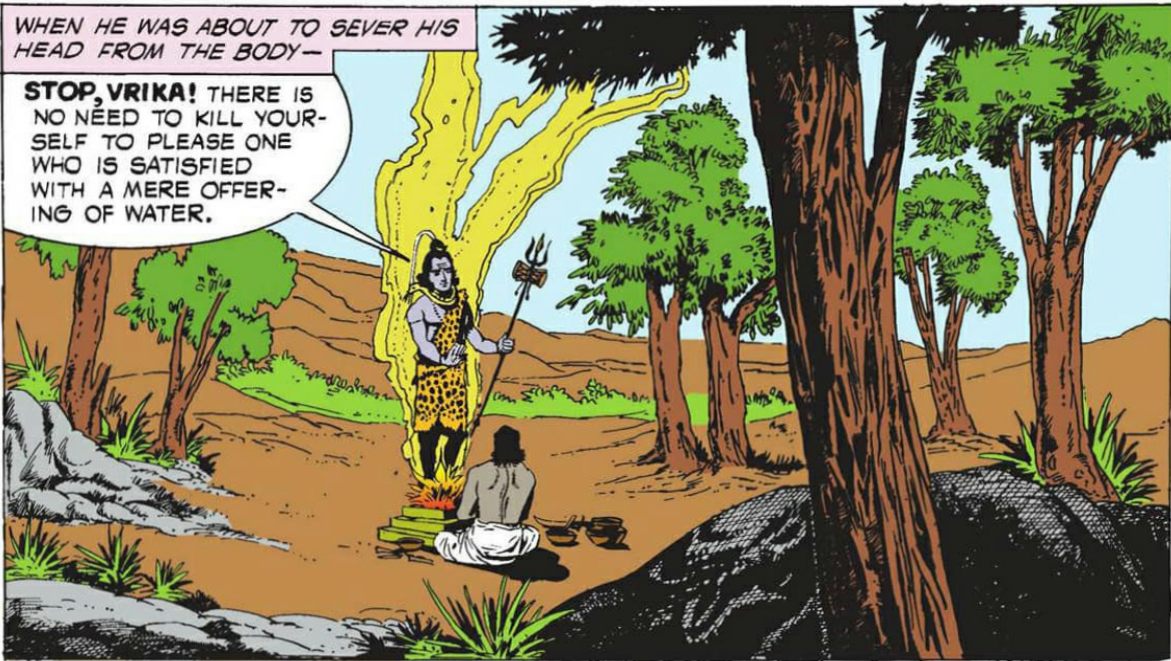
HE DOES NOT APPEAR. PERHAPS IT IS ONLY THE OFFERING OF MY HEAD THAT WILL PROPITIATE THE LORD.





WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO SEVER HIS  
HEAD FROM THE BODY—

**STOP, VRIKA!** THERE IS  
NO NEED TO KILL YOUR-  
SELF TO PLEASE ONE  
WHO IS SATISFIED  
WITH A MERE OFFER-  
ING OF WATER.



WHAT IS  
THE BOON  
YOU SEEK?

I WISH TO  
CONQUER THE WORLD.  
MAY ANYONE ON  
WHOSE HEAD I LAY  
MY PALM, DIE.



SO BE  
IT.





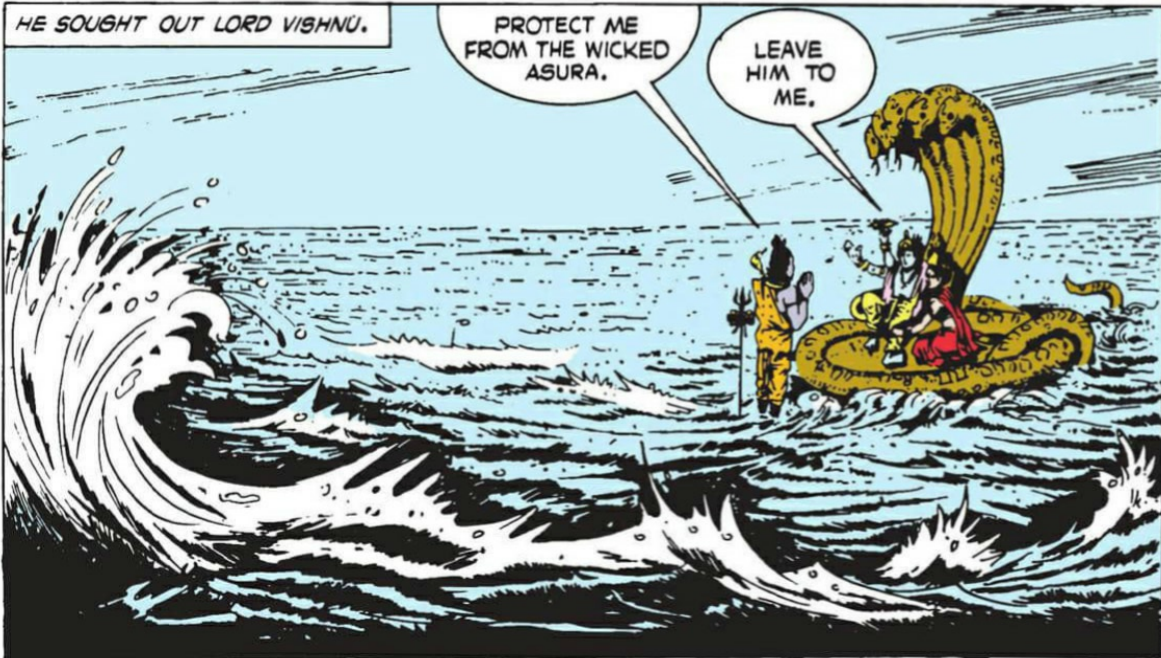
THE NEXT MOMENT, VRIKA TRIED TO REACH FOR SHIVA.



SHIVA BROKE INTO A RUN.

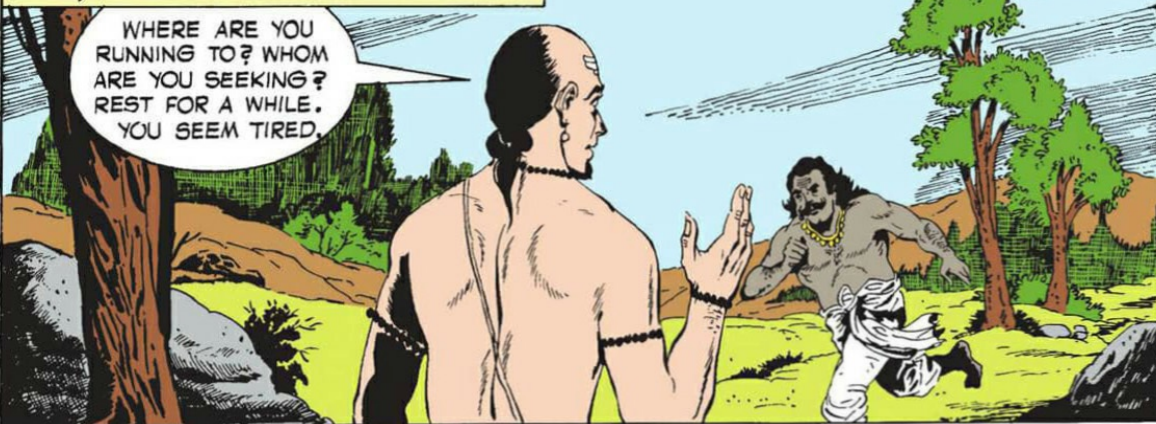


HE SOUGHT OUT LORD VISHNÜ.





MEANWHILE, AS VRIKA RAN IN SEARCH OF SHIVA, A YOUNG BRAHMACHARI \*MET HIM.



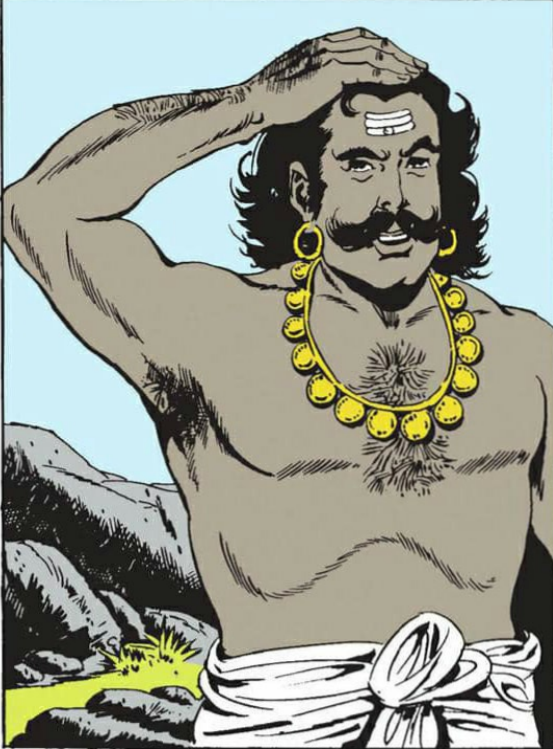
VRIKA TOLD HIM OF SHIVA'S BOON.



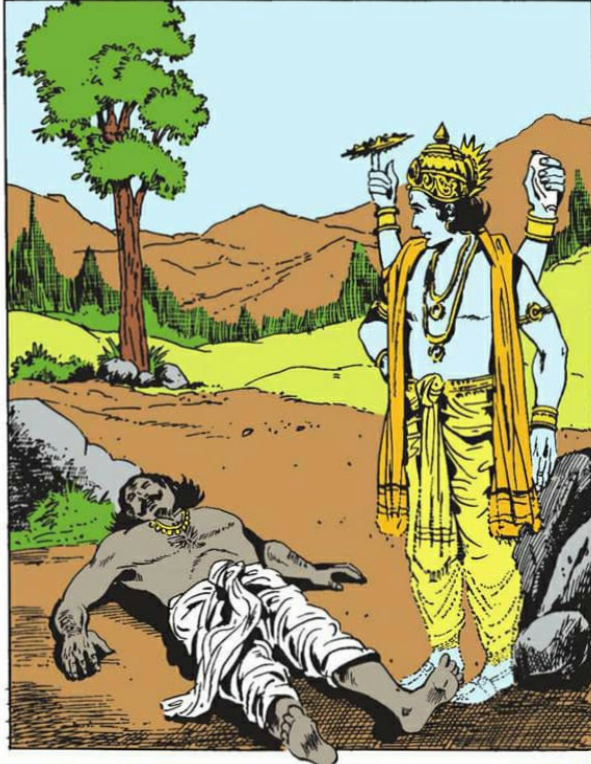
\*CELIBATE



WITHOUT STOPPING TO THINK, THE FOOLISH ASURA PLACED HIS PALM ON HIS HEAD.



THE NEXT MOMENT, HE FELL DEAD. THE CLEVER BRAHMACHARI WAS NONE OTHER THAN VISHNU.



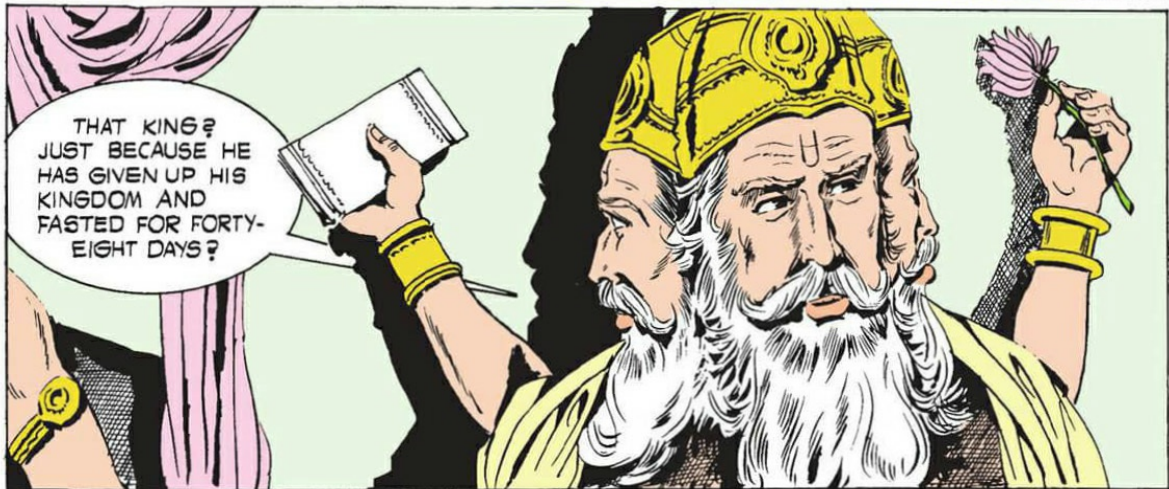
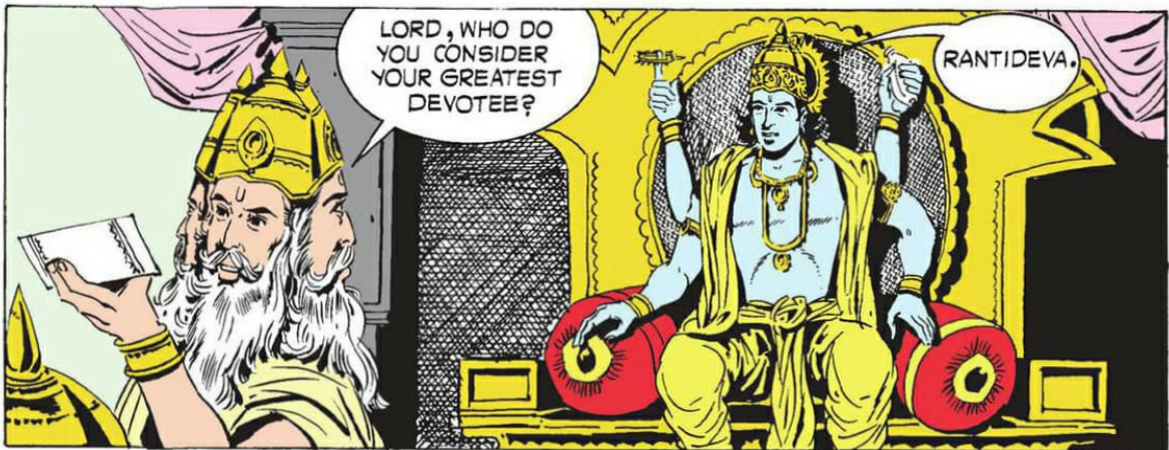
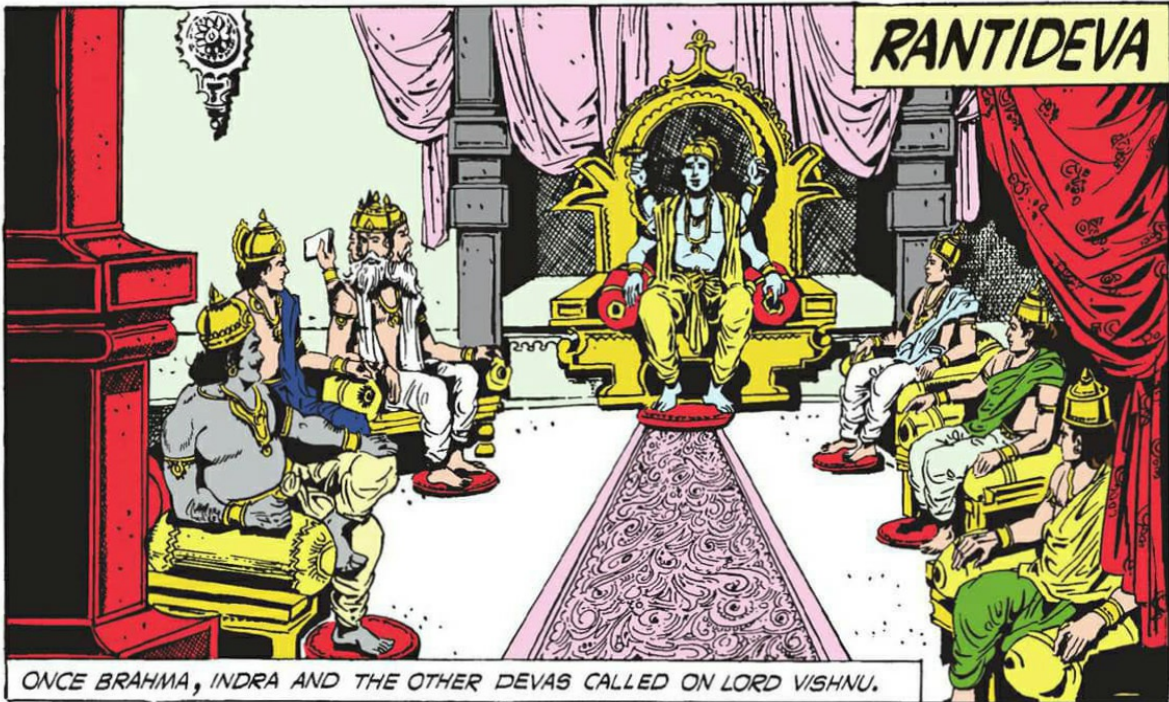
JUST THEN, SHIVA APPEARED.

I AM SORRY THAT THE UNFORTUNATE ASURA HAD TO DIE.

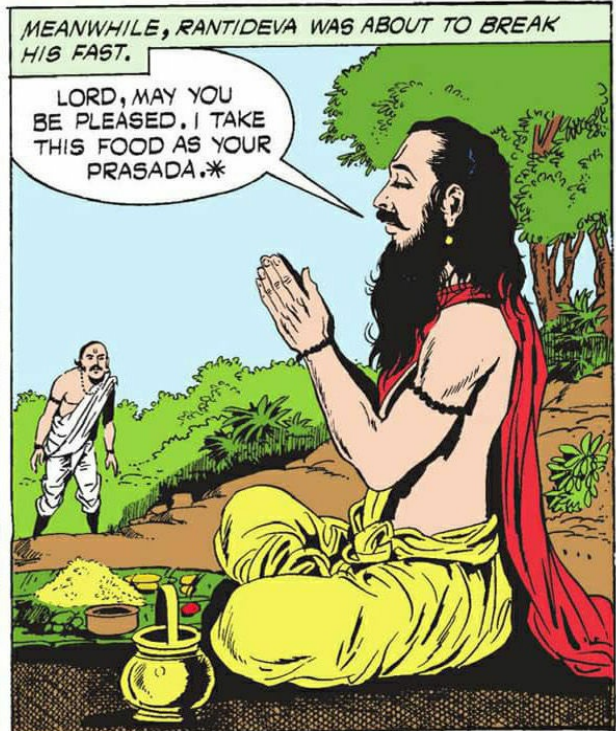
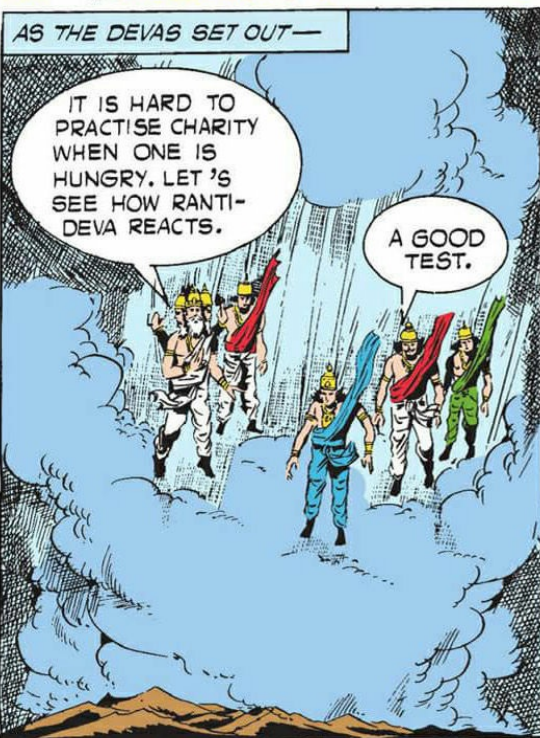
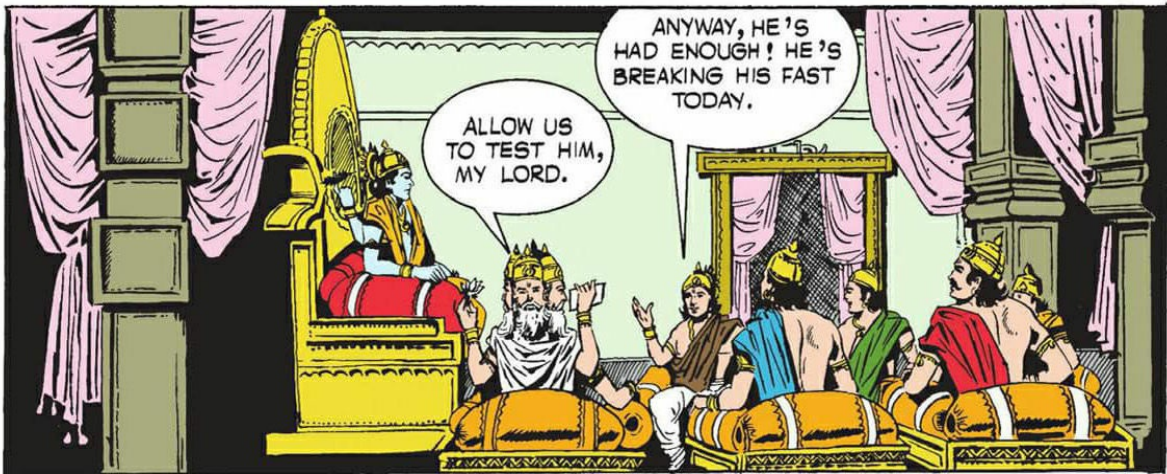
IT WAS INEVITABLE. HE WHO SECURES A BOON TO DESTROY OTHERS SEEKS HIS OWN DESTRUCTION.



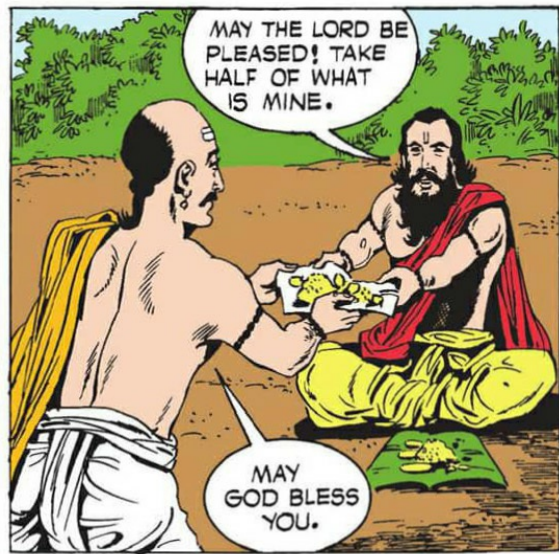








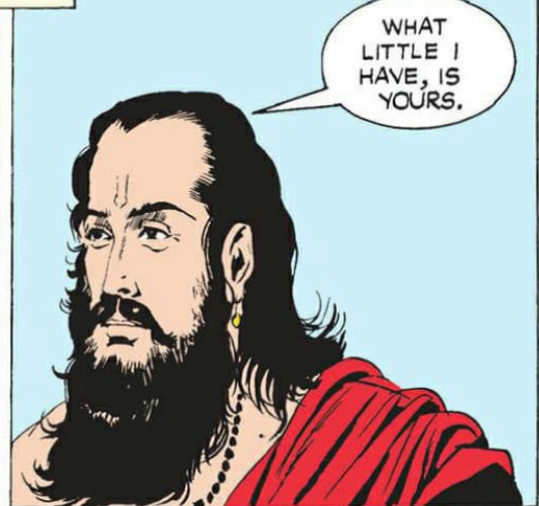
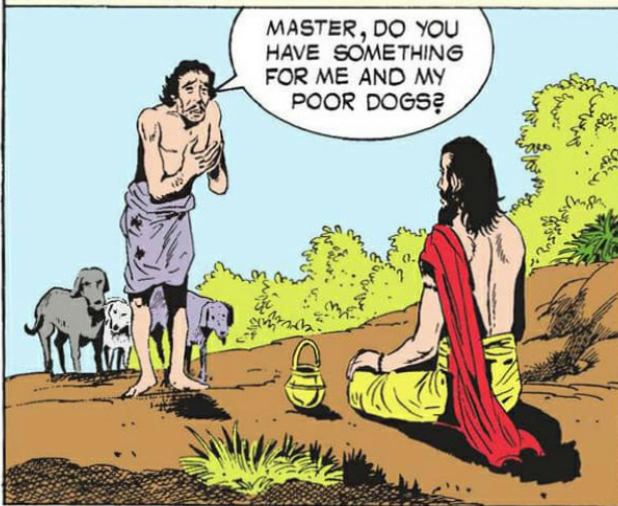




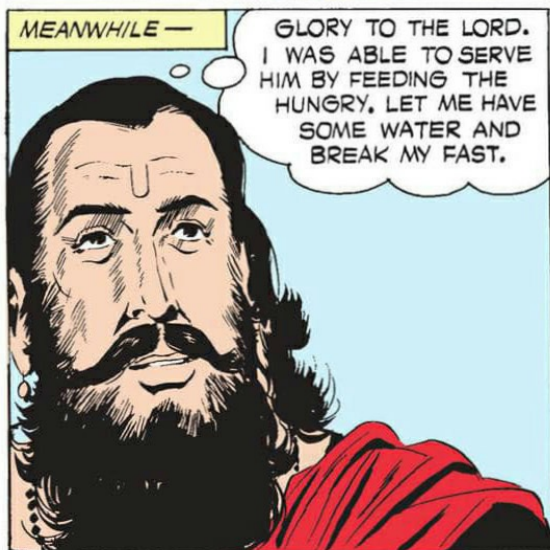
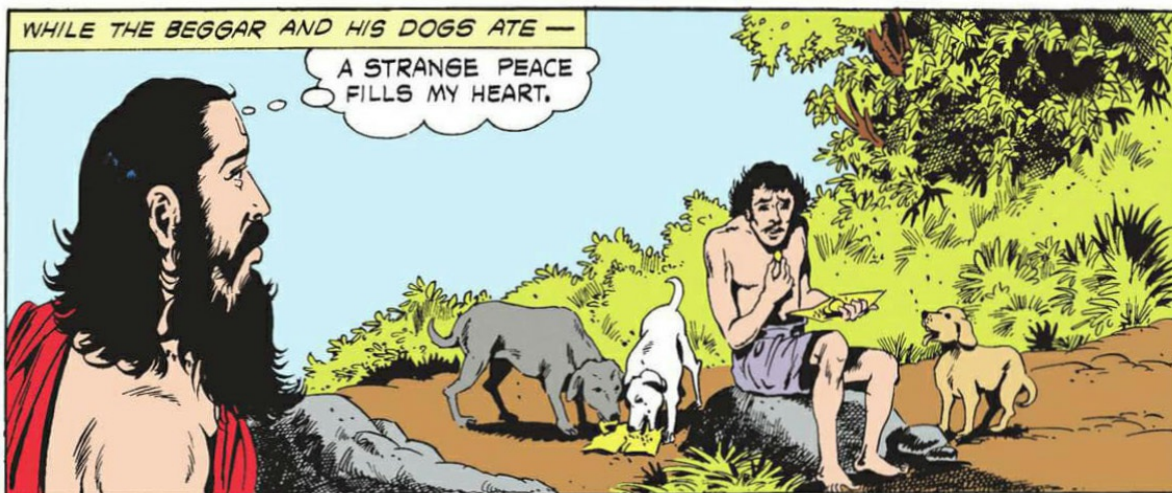
AS THE BRAHMAN WENT AWAY, A FARMER CAME ALONG.



AS RANTIDEVA WAS ABOUT TO EAT WHAT WAS LEFT —

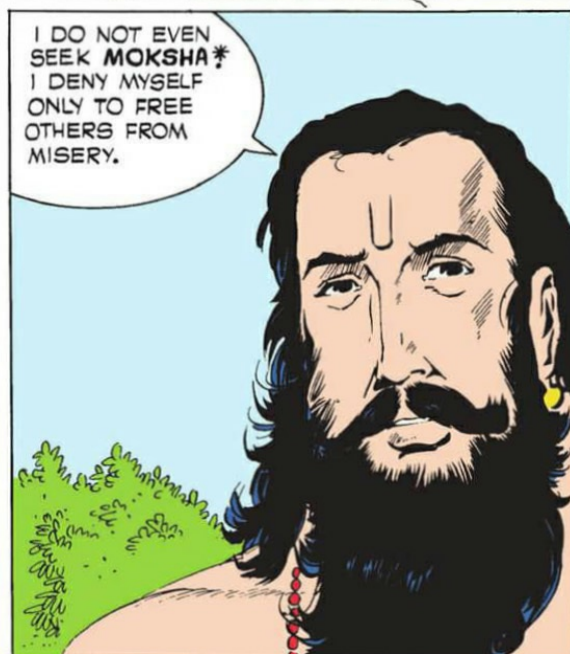






\*CELESTIAL BEING





\* EMANCIPATION OF THE SOUL





THE NEXT MOMENT, VISHNU AND THE OTHER DEVAS APPEARED BEFORE RANTIDEVA.

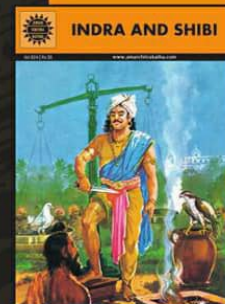
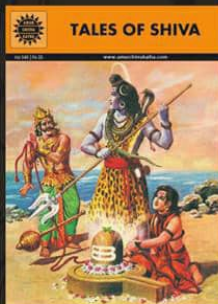




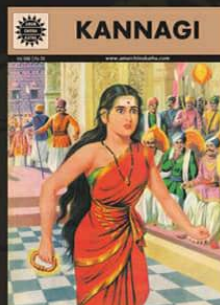
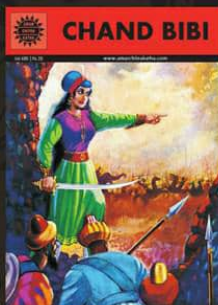
## TALES OF VISHNU

Vishnu, they say, is just one of a powerful threesome – the highest lords of the universe. However, though Brahma has created the universe and Shiva can destroy it, it is up to the great god Vishnu to keep all creatures within it well and happy. Always compassionate, he is also the wisest of the trinity. It is he who good-naturedly sorts out the mess the others create. And above all, Vishnu always favours the good and the pure.

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